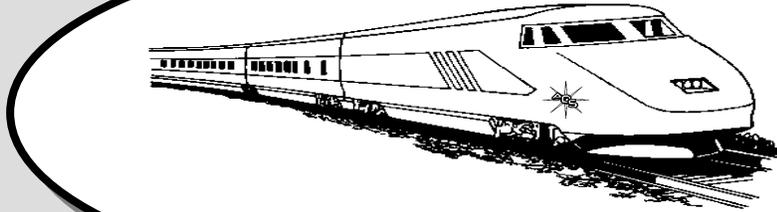


The Opal Express

Published monthly by
The American
Opal
Society



July 2012

Volume 45 Issue 7

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Members Only Website Password	1
AOS Calendar for 2012	1
Dunstan's Stone - The First Famous Lightning Ridge Opal	2
New South Wales: Mining Town Steals Hearts of Dreamers	2
What Is Rose Gold, White Gold, And Green Gold Jewelry?	3
Mining and Mineral staff hope for 11th-hour deal	4
From Rags to Riches, Ch. 24 – The New Home	5
July 2012 Gem & Mineral Shows	7

President's Message

By Pete Goetz

Hey fellow opalholics, last month's General meeting was a Live Auction. There wasn't many of us there, but those of us who were, walked off with some better than usual items. A good time was had by all. I hope to see more of ya'll at the next auction.



Pete Goetz

In about five (5) months we will again be putting on OUR annual OPAL and Gem Show. It will be at the same venue on the first weekend in November. I will soon (in next Opal Express) be asking for your support during this event. The show is the life blood of OUR Society. It provides the needed funding to keep AOS moving along. I would like to see more new faces on the staff list.

Members Only Website Password

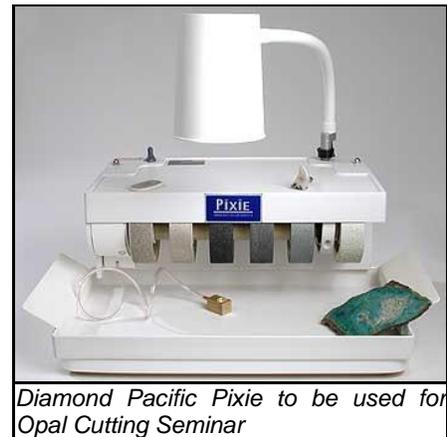
To log onto the website's members only area at: http://opalsociety.org/aos_members_only_area.htm type: Name: "member" and Password: "matrixopal".

AOS Calendar for 2012

This month we will be having an **Opal Cutting Seminar**. We will have at least two Diamond Pacific Pixie lapidary sets and experienced cutters for opal cutting demonstrations. Also, bring in *The Opal Express* *The American Opal Society*

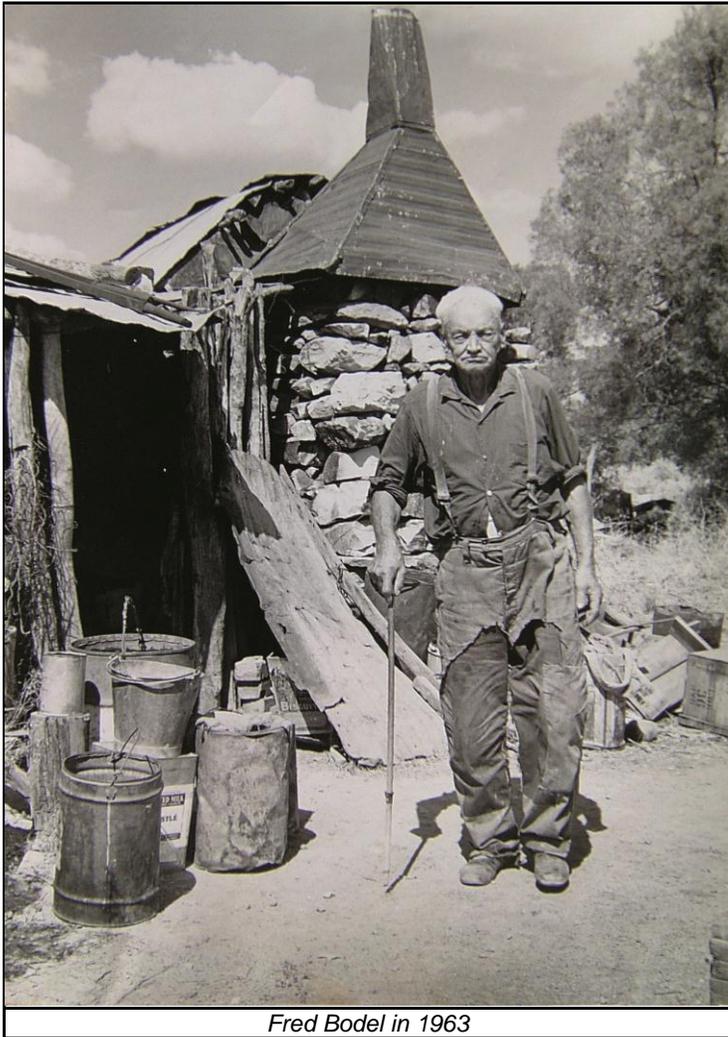
your some of your rough opal to cut. The AOS will also provide rough to cut.

We are still looking for interesting speakers for August and September, so any suggestion from members would be appreciated. Contact Jim Pisani.



Diamond Pacific Pixie to be used for Opal Cutting Seminar

Date	General Meeting Topic / Speaker
12-Jan-12	Fred & Charlotte Ward on Opals
09-Feb-12	Gretchen Krutz on Jewelry Design and Wax Carving.
08-Mar-12	Jim Pisani on the World of Jade, with an emphasis on California Jade
12-Apr-12	Mike Woodard Photography – Gem micro-photography
10-May-12	Pete Goetz on Cooking Andamooka Matrix
14-Jun-12	Live Opal Auction
12-Jul-12	Opal Cutting Seminar
09-Aug-12	To Be Announced
13-Sep-12	To Be Announced
11-Oct-12	Opal & Gem Show Work Session
03-Nov-12	45th Annual Opal & Gem Show
04-Nov-12	45th Annual Opal & Gem Show
08-Nov-12	Opal & Gem Show Recap
13-Dec-12	AOS Christmas Party Potluck



Fred Bodel in 1963

Dunstan's Stone - The First Famous Lightning Ridge Opal

By Len Cram

Charlie Dunstan commits suicide, Walgett Spectator, 16 November 1910:

We were horrified last Monday to learn that an old resident of the field, Charlie Dunstan, had committed suicide. He was found dead in his hut, lying on the floor with a pea rifle beneath him. The police found an empty cartridge in the gun, and an open razor nearby. It would appear that he first thought to use the razor, then changed his mind and used the rifle.

Stuart Lloyd records a few interesting facts about Charlie Dunstan in his book:

He found a famous stone at the Angledool field that was named after him. He was a very hard happy go lucky worker who loved his liquor and often indulged in bouts of heavy drinking. He had one of the best claims on Angledool field, and the ratters took advantage of him when he was in this condition. Frank Tattam said he once saw seven men come out of Charlies claim at sunrise one morning. On one occasion after recovering from a binge, he put a notice in his mine for the ratters, which read: 'For goodness sake use your own candles.' In one instance after discovering a pocket of large opals, he had trouble getting one of them out of his pocket to show a friend while it was still in the rough.

Fred Bodel, who in 1906 saw a lot of Dunstan's opal, told me that among his many gems were three exceptional big stones. One as big as a cricket ball was stolen from him in a pub at Angledool, [Not to be confused with the opal field of the same name] while on a drinking binge, the other two he sold. Dunstan and his partner, Happy Jack, [Jack Burke] were two of the first Opal Kings on the field. Murphy, the field's most famous buyer said at one stage they sold him £1,000 worth of opal in six weeks. John Landers, who also knew Dunstan, wrote an article on him for the **Walgett Spectator** in 1921, said:

"On that bitter cold night in September 1906, on my first trip to Walgett and the Ridge, I was sitting by a great log fire in Dodd's Hotel, when a stranger came in. We entered into conversation, and he told me he came from Lightning Ridge. I at once became interested, and told him I was going out there to try my luck for opal. The name turned out to be Charlie Dunstan, who was at the time, an acknowledged Opal King of the field. We met again on the following morning, and he showed me about 20 or 30 beautiful stones, among which was an enormous black stone. He told me it had come from his claim at Angledool, and that his partner, Happy Jack Burke, a short time previously, had dug it out. He said he just had it weighed in the bank, and that it was nearly six and a half ounces! It appeared to be nearly five inches long, and two and half inches thick and the same in width. In shape, it resembled an enormous egg. As far as I can remember, this stone was all opal, no potch showing anywhere.

During my sojourn at Lightning Ridge, I have never, nor has anyone else, seen so large a stone of such quality and beauty. I asked him the value of it and he replied "about £120". I think he told me years after, that he sold it to a man named Martin for £100. Black opal in those days was not a valuable jewel as it is today. Martin kept it for some time, and not being able to realise a profit on it, sold it to Murphy, who sent it around the world trying to sell it but without success. It eventually came back to Australia when it was sold on the field to Francis, "Berlina". Francis had no better luck than the others did and he gave it to Samuels who sold it for £100, for which he received £3 commission. For the next ten years, this stone seemed to be lost sight of. All trace of it entirely disappeared. About 18 months ago, I read in one of the leading newspapers of a beautiful large black opal in the Washington State Bureau, New York, about 20 cubic inches in size, which would be about the size of Dunstan's stone and the value of it was £56,000, not dollars. This would in all probability be the stone from the Ridge.

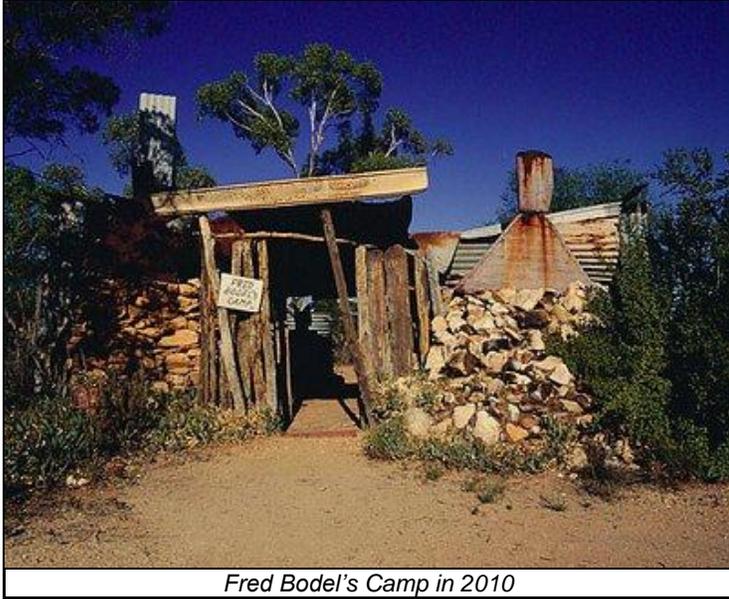
I remember Charlie Dunstan and Happy Jack telling me that when they found this stone, it was so large, they could not fit it into their tea billy to carry it home! In the ground, beautiful sheets of opal that immediately crumbled and fell to pieces as they peeled them off, were wrapped around it. Happy Jack also said that for almost 18 inches before he came across the opal he was peeling these wafer thin sheets of opal out of the opal dirt. This claim of Dunstan's in the opinion of all the old hands, must have been the richest we ever had. I remember Dunstan telling me that he sold Murphy a 60 oz parcel of black barred stones for £62. I also remember him telling me some three years later that he was sure he had sold £30,000 worth of opal for £900. Poor Charlie sleeps in our little cemetery. Success killed him. Peace be with him. They both loved the joy of living and perhaps will be mates again where black opal does not trouble them. However, we still have their memories."

New South Wales: Mining Town Steals Hearts of Dreamers

By Kara Segedin, May 18, 2010

Lightning Ridge draws many who hope to find precious opal, writes Kara Segedin.

It's not the flying, bloodsucking insects visitors need to be wary



Fred Bodel's Camp in 2010

of in Lightning Ridge but a bug of a different kind - the opal bug.

Everyone in this lonely Outback New South Wales town has been bitten by the bug at some stage and never left.

Whether they came as miners seeking the famous black opal, or were drawn to the freedom of the Ridge's lifestyle, they're now trapped, proud to call it home.

You know you're in the right place when you see the sign: "Lightning Ridge: Population ?"

The number of miners in town is anybody's guess; opal miners being notoriously tight-lipped, with many sites registered to first names only, faithful family pets or false names, including a few famous cartoon character residents.

That's no great surprise. What was a surprise was that, thanks to rainstorms across the border in Queensland, the dry landscape I expected was surprisingly lush, and some of the roads north of the Ridge were flooded.

But that didn't stop us making our way to the [Australian Opal Centre](#) to find out what this precious stone means to the area.

Paleontologist Jenni Brammall fell in love with the Ridge during a university field trip and now manages the centre, which holds an impressive collection of opal and opalised fossils including those of dinosaurs, early mammals and marine life.

But the most famous piece in the exhibit is a set of opal dentures that belonged to Harold Hodges, a well-known local opal seller and buyer in 1960s and 70s. Fed up with people asking him to smile, Harold cemented the teeth into the wall of the local pub where they stayed until after his death.

For now, the collection is housed in town, but in the next few years it will move to a state-of-the-art, underground, two-story building on the historic Three Mile opal field.

A different aspect of opal mining is on display at the Dig Inn on Bald Hill.

Husband-and-wife mining and cooking team Alan and Rynn Bair took over the business in Easter 2008 and their camp-tucker soon became famous on the opal fields. Now every evening 10-15 miners show up for dinner.

The outdoor dining area is beautifully rustic, lit by fairy lights, lamps and the bright night sky. While Alan puts the finishing touches on the beef, pork, chicken, soup and veges slowly cooking on an open fire, Rynn shares stories of long days out on the claim.

As with all miners, they keep tales of riches close to their chest - any word that you're on opal could lead to a late night visit from

The Opal Express

The American Opal Society

ratters, local thieves who head down shafts and strip them of their wealth - but that doesn't stop the yarns from rolling.

Our second day in opal country starts early when we are collected from our motel by Black Opal Tours' mini-van and guided around the Ridge. It's the sort of place where a guide is welcome because of the idiosyncratic system of directions that operates here. Dotted around in what seems to be the middle of nowhere are brightly-painted and numbered car doors that act as road signs to the main sights. Each colour represents a different route and free maps are available at the visitors' centre.

In fact, cars and doors are much in demand round here. The bumpy roads are littered with the remains of burned-out cars that have been picked over for parts. Here and there we spy makeshift miners' homes made out of whatever the owners could get their hands on.

However, what we were after was the chance to fossick for opal.

Tales of big wins can make opal mining an addictive pursuit, so no matter how much they find, miners keep going back in hope of the next big hit.

Only a few years ago, a lucky tourist picked up a \$20,000 stone in the mullock heap outside the visitors' centre. And then there's One-Bucket Bob, who found a million dollars' worth of opal in the first bucket of dirt he pulled out of his mine, only to spend it quick, and come back to find another million in the next bucket.

I was certain this was going to be my lucky day as our group scrummaged through white piles of scrap looking for the gleam of an elusive opal. Unfortunately, the closest I came to opal was a few specks in some rocks - nobbies - and a couple of pieces of quartz.

But even if you don't find opal there's still plenty to see, including mining-related sights such as Fred Bodel's Camp and Lunatic Hill, and magnificently eccentric works of art such as Astronomer's Monument, Amigo's Castle, Bevan's Black Opal and Cactus Nursery, the Black Queen and Chambers of the Black Hands.

Astronomer's Monument was built by Polish immigrant Alex Sperlak, who retired to the Ridge as the "second Robinson Crusoe" after years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

Another artistic sight is found 11.2m underground in the 100-year-old mine named Chambers of the Black Hand. Miner Ron Canlin started carving animals and pillars into the walls and, as his ideas and skills grew, the works became larger and more detailed.

Decked out in coloured hardhats, we climb down into this magical world where tunnels open into vast chambers filled with paintings and sculptures. With so much to see and so many characters to meet, I truly have the Lightning Ridge bug - oh, and a few mozzie bites as well.

CHECKLIST:

Getting there: Lightning Ridge is 750km northwest of Sydney and accessible by a sealed road, rail and bus, and air.

The nearest airport is at Dubbo, about 355km south. [Qantas](#) and [Rex](#) have daily flights between Sydney and Dubbo.

[Countrylink](#) provides a daily train service from Sydney to Dubbo and a coach continues to Lightning Ridge.

[Kynoch coach services](#) to and from Brisbane operate throughout the week.

Further information: Outback NSW is has a [webpage](#). <http://www.visitoutbacknsw.com>.

The Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre is [also online](#). <http://www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au/>.

From <http://www.nzherald.co.nz>

+++++

What Is Rose Gold, White Gold, And Green Gold Jewelry?

By [melpor](#)

Background

July 2012

Page 3



Gold in three colors

Gold is one of the three previous metals in the world along with Silver and Platinum. If you remember your high school chemistry, **Gold** is a chemical element with the symbol **Au** (Latin: *aurum*) and an atomic number of 79. The metal occurs as nuggets or grains in rocks. Gold is a soft, shiny and the most malleable and ductile

pure metal known. This means gold can be made pretty much into any shape you desire. This is why it is so popular among jewelry makers. The following article will give you some information you need to know before you buy gold.

Pure gold (24K) has a bright yellow color and luster which makes it attractive. Gold is also resistant to tarnish; basically it does not react with air, water or other chemicals such as acids and bases. That is why gold jewelry still looks good after many years of wear and tear. Just look at the wedding ring you wearing; it still looks as good as new, just a little worn down.

The color of gold can be changed slightly or a lot by mixing it with other metals in various amount to make a gold alloy. The only gold that is not an alloy obviously is 24K gold since it pure, the other gold karats are alloys. Let's look at the various alloys of gold in more detail.

18K Gold, the Next Best Thing to 24K Gold

Gold alloy can be made to contain different levels of gold, but keep in mind that pure gold is too soft to be worn as everyday jewelry. The starting point for wearable gold is 22K, followed by 21K, 20K and then to 18K the most popular among westerners. 18K gold contains 18 parts gold and 6 parts other metal usually copper, silver, zinc or nickel. You probably noticed that the karat number is equal to the number of pure gold parts added to the number of metal parts to get a total of 24 parts, e.g. **18 parts pure gold + 6 parts silver = 18K gold.**

14K Gold, the Gold For Everyone

14K gold is 14 parts pure gold and 10 parts other metal. In most cases the other metal is copper and silver. 14K gold is more durable and generally



Rose Gold

appears more shiny compare to 18K gold since it is lighter in color. It is the most common gold alloy in the United States.

Rose Gold

Rose gold, sometime



White Gold

called pink or red gold, is created by increasing the copper-colored alloys mixed with the gold and decreasing the silver-colored alloys. 14K rose gold is slightly pinker in color compared to 14K gold because there is more copper in the alloy compared to the amount of copper in 14K gold alloy. The more copper you add to the alloy the deeper the color becomes approaching rose in color. Rose gold is available in both 14K and 18K..

White Gold, Almost Silver

White gold has a higher level of silver-colored alloys (zinc, silver, nickel) and a little less copper-colored alloy added with the gold compared 14K gold. White gold is nearly white (silver) in color with a very faint yellow tint. White gold is available both in 14K and 18K. The 14K gold has less of a yellow tint compare to the 18K since it has less gold in it.



Green Gold

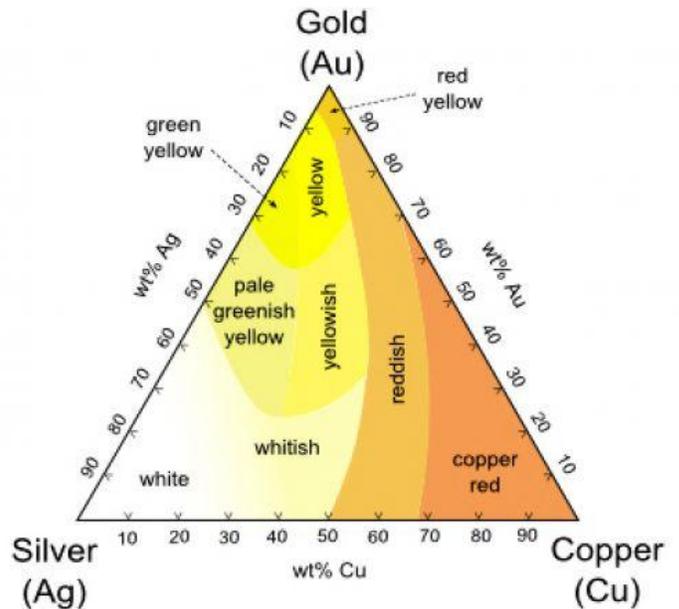
Green Gold, Sounds Misleading

Green gold sounds misleading when used in the same sentence with jewelry. Right away you would think the jewelry is no good or very old. 14k green gold is 14 parts pure gold and 10 parts pure silver. Silver is what gives the gold alloy a greenish tint.

12K Gold, Doesn't Sound Like Much Gold

12K gold is half and half. It is 12 parts pure gold and 12 part of another metal or metals.

The following illustration shows the various percentages of the three metals needed to make the different colors of gold alloy. Draw a perpendicular line from each side of the triangle into the center and where the three lines meet is the color of the alloy.



The higher the copper content, the redder the gold; the higher the silver, the whiter the gold

10K Gold, One Step above Silver

10K gold is 10 parts pure gold and 14 parts another metal or metals. 10K gold is the lowest karat designation that can still be called gold in the United States.

From <http://melpor.hubpages.com/hub/14K-White-Gold-The-Facts>

Mining and Mineral Staff Hope for 11th-Hour Deal

State Parks Crisis

By Erik Skindrud, GAZETTE REPORTER

Over the past two weeks, museum staff have stuffed close to 100 boxes full and sent them to a storage facility in Sacramento.

Museum workers are preparing for the museum's anticipated closure on July 1. The items sent to storage are "off-exhibit" items—

but the rest of the priceless collection will follow if a new plan isn't nailed down in the next three weeks.

"It's going to be sad if it happens," museum curator Darci Moore said last week. "We are still hoping that (the private museum association) can take over operation of the facility.

"The only other way is for a donor to step forward with money to cover salaries and operation," she said.

How much would a donor have to give?

A total of \$180,000 a year would do it, Moore said.

Last Wednesday, the non-profit California Mining and Mineral Museum Association board of directors voted to decline California State Parks' terms for a cooperative agreement that would keep the facility open.

Association president Ron Iudice said terms offered by California's Department of Parks and Recreation do not add up to a sustainable recipe.

"They're treating us like a concessionaire, not a non-profit (group)," Iudice said. "By the terms of the agreement, they want us to be like a state parks employee. We are volunteers. There's no way we can march to that tune."

If no agreement materializes between the state and the museum association, and no donor steps forward, one possible savior for the museum remains.

Last month, California Assembly member Kristin Olsen joined with fellow state legislators in support of a bill that could rescue Mariposa's museum, and close to 70 others, from the July 1 deadline.

Called AB 1589, the bill would secure additional revenue to keep parks open and make closing state parks an option of last resort.

While Mariposa County has only one state park, the museum is a tourist draw and one of the most unique facilities in the state park system. The total value of museum artifacts is unknown, but certainly runs into the millions of dollars. It includes rare and beautiful gold specimens like the 13.8-lb. Fricot nugget and lesser-known but rare and valuable benitoite crystals.

The legislative push is supported by Democrats and Republicans. Olsen called it a rare example of "bipartisan problem solving."

"We will continue fighting to prevent the closure of the historic parks of Railtown 1897 State Park in Sonora and the Mariposa Mining and Mineral Museum," she said in a statement. "Parks are vital to the economies of the local communities they serve and closure would be a blow to their already fragile state."

County supervisor Kevin Cann has been in touch with Olsen on the issue, museum association president Iudice said.

Museum boosters are discussing an additional option. State Parks officials might be persuaded to hold the mining and mineral collection until Mariposa's new visitor center complex is finished.



California State Mining and Mineral Museum Curator Darci Moore carries a box of packing materials last week. Museum staff have filled close to 100 boxes and sent them to a Sacramento storage facility in anticipation of the museum's closure this July 1. Erik Skindrud | The Gazette It's packing time at the California State Mining and Mineral Museum at Mariposa's fairgrounds.

Tentative plans for the center include a new and permanent museum home.

If the museum does close, curator Moore may be reassigned, but workers Randy Bolt and Chel Berbenes face layoff, Moore said. From the MARIPOSA GAZETTE.

+++++

From Rags to Riches & Disasters

By Peter Greis

Chapter 24 – The New Home

This morning which was Saturday, was no different from then any other day, work at the Butcher Shop and Johnny at the mine. I asked Johnny this morning what happened yesterday at the claim, he told me nothing specific or to get excited about, there are still traces but no colour, he told me he wants to continue with this drive to see if the traces improve, he has a couple more feet of level to drop and will set another charge. I ask him how much Gelignite we have left, and he replied "Don't worry, there is more where that came from." "I will not be much help to you this weekend, as you know we got the party tonight and tomorrow night, and this afternoon I promised Anne that we are going to see her and Harry at their place."

"So if you want to have a break, please do so and if you have to go somewhere you can use the Ute." Johnny replied, "I am fine I go today and drop the Level and set some charges and I see what time that takes me, to be sure I am home for when you have to leave," Chris said, "I don't have to be there before 5 pm so you don't have rush." Johnny and I left at the same time, he to the claim I am to the co-op.

Anne arrived and quickly confirmed with me if we coming, I told her we will be there by 2 pm.

We had another great morning with takings in the shop, and everything went smoothly. Anne left and I took my weekend meat and said good bye to Doug, he made a comment about the party at Gus's Place last night and said the whole town is talking about me.

Well I better not disappoint them tonight if I play, which means if the drummer does show then I am only a spectator, and can watch how many times Bill Petrohelos stuffs Money down the front of Tanya's Blouse, I laughed and so did Doug, Yes Bill is a wild one when it comes to parties, but he is not fresh.

"Yes I could see that last night, well maybe you pop in tonight and see your butcher perform." I am actually going to dinner tonight, we'll see you then. Doug replied.

I went home and Chris was waiting for me with Beatrix. She said "can we go past the co-op as I need a couple things," "Ok let's go," I replied.

We stopped at the co-op and Chris went in I was waiting outside in the car, she got back and into the car and we were heading towards the hospital that was where Doug Johnson had his place and Ann's place was supposedly be next lot over.

As we got up the Hill I could see Doug Johnsons place and there right next to it was this pink Fibro cottage with a corrugated roof on it.

We drove up and Harry was outside at his car and he waved us so we drove over and got out, I introduced Chris and Beatrix to him, they shook hands and he said, "come on in. We walked into a cozy little lounge, and from there into a kitchen which had a Table and four chairs, and there was still plenty of room to feel not to closed Anne was there preparing some plates with biscuits and the coffee to go with it. She greeted us and asked us where we would like to sit. I replied the Kitchen here is nice and cozy. So we sat and started drinking the coffee and ate biscuits and Anne said, "would you like to have a look around?" I replied yes please, and we started out, first she took us into the lounge room, which was tastefully set up with a Lounge and two Lounge chairs, coffee table and a sideboard. There were carpet on the floor it was old but not too shabby. We then went

into the main Bedroom which had a queen-size bed and two bedside cupboards a wardrobe and a 4 drawer dresser.

And again Carpet on the floor. We then went into the other bedroom which was considerable smaller with a single bed, a drawer attached to the head board, and a small wardrobe this room was also carpeted. You could see there was a feminine touch in this place as every window was curtained. There was also a shower

When we were finished she took us to a door which led from the kitchen to the annex or enclosed Patio if you want to call it.

It was fully enclosed and can definitely be used for an additional Bedroom.

We went back to the Kitchen and Harry said, I show you the rest, he took me outside to the shed, where he had his opal cutting equipment and some boxes, he uses a 2 KVA Generator which he runs the lighting and his machinery.

The outhouse is unfortunately the same as I have in Dutton village,

All in all it was a palace compare to what we were living in.

A 200 gallon water tank resting on railway sleepers further up the hill which gravity fed the Kitchen and the bathroom which had a simple shower and a basin with a mirror on top, Kitchen and Bathroom were fed via a flow through hot water heater, everything was just perfect.

We went back to the house and joined the others. Anne asks "what do you think?" I replied "when can we move in," and laughed.

Harry told us that he really would like to move as soon as possible, to take up what is waiting in Adelaide for him, he asks me how long I am intending to stay on the field. I told him "well if we have to continue to live like we are doing now I would say not too long. But if we can improve our lifestyle then I would say I give myself 2 years to find something decent to get off the field and be able to start in a Metro Area with some reasonable financial backing." Harry continued by saying, "the place is yours, as soon as I can organize a truck from Johnny Lyon to go to Adelaide and Anne to finish off in the Shop. I would say, "the whole thing should not take me more than 3 weeks to organize, even sooner, everything will stay except our personal belongings, generator, cutting equipment and so on. Furniture, crockery etc all will stay all you need to provide is your linen. I will make sure the Tank is full of water and change the gas bottle." "That suits me fine, when the time comes I will pay you three month in advance, and you leave me your bank details and I will pay the rent every three month in advance, have you got any objections to make improvements,?" "Absolutely not, what have you got in mind?" Harry asked, I told him I like to get concrete blocks and rebuild the toilet, put a 50 gallon tank on top and concrete the floor and put in a cistern for a flush toilet." This is very funny, I had that in mind of doing before the saga with going back to Adelaide," Harry replied.

Great, "we have to leave so Chris can get ready to go to the restaurant to start her waitress job," I said.

We all shook hands and we left. On the way, Chris said, "I would be very happy in this place, particular if you make this toilet improvement." I said, "It would not take too long Johnny and I build the box in one weekend, the only thing is to find out how much one these tanks the toilet and the cistern," I think I should be able to this under three hundred dollars.

While Chris got changed I fooled around a little with Beatrix with her drawing books. When she was ready she came out and looked absolutely stunning again, this time she was wearing a red body hugging skirt with and a similar blouse which also was very revealing. I stammered, "Are you going for the kill tonight?" and I smiled. She replied, "My darling I do this for you, and if it at the same time inspires the generosity of these nice gentlemen then it was the right outfit for me to wear, and of course there is always the after effect when we get home." She kissed me on the nose and said, "I wonder how long Johnny will be." As she finished this sentence the familiar sound of the Ute driving appeared. Johnny got out and said "another waste of a day, with absolutely nothing, On

Monday I start a drive in the opposite direction, but before I do, I am gong to gauge out a few feet to see if the traces can be picked up again." I said, I am sorry I could not help, but after the week end everything should be back to normal." "Hey I am not complaining, I knew you had a busy weekend, by the way how was Anne's place?" Johnny also asked.

"It is great you will feel like you are at the Andamooka Ritz, we could be moving in about three weeks or even earlier," I told him. "Well that is something to look forward to." Johnny commented. "Johnny there is some cold meat in the fridge and bread etc, unfortunately tonight you are the Chef, Cook and Bottle Washer, can you please prepare a couple sandwiches for Beatrix and a glass of Milk, and of course 9pm bedtime, Chris told Johnny, he replied no problem you go and knock them dead, by look you are a knockout anyhow., you better get going. We kissed Beatrix good bye and gave the instructions and we went.

We got to the restaurant close to 5:00pm and Lottie greeted us and Chris disappeared with her. I looked in the direction of the band and there was Pancho, by himself sorting out some music sheets, he said hello and ask me if I will be able to fill in again as the drummer apparently had a break down on the way from Adelaide and will not be here at all. I told Pancho that I will cover the drums for him. He was very pleased about it.

The restaurant started filling up slowly, there was Blue the driver from Johnny Lyon, then Lazlo and his wife came, and Laszlo was carrying a Banjo. I nodded greetings, a little later Ludwig and Klaus appeared and they joined me on the table I was sitting on, and of course Doug McCallumn and his wife Sarah also came. One person I did not expect was Steve and Stella.

Doug Johnson was in Adelaide at the time so he did not come, but all in all the prominence of the Andamooka Opal fields did show up, like, Schultz, Vlack the Opal Buyers and Albert McCormack etc.. Of course the tables for Bill and his guests were reserved. So the other guests which did not book Lotie found suitable places for them, everything was running lie Clockwork.

Then the baritone voice from Bill Petrohelos echoed through the restaurant, "Hello Darling" and he walked up to Chris and placed a kiss on her Cheek, and said, "You look very sexy again," Chris smiled and replied, "You don't look too bad yourself."

I will look after you when you settled down with your guests," Bill winked at her and Chris disappeared behind the bar.

All of a sudden, Marianne, Blues wife came in and went to Blue and I could see how agitated she was, and blue was making gestures with his hands etc., I could not understand what that was all about. But suddenly Marianne burst into tears and stormed out of the restaurant. Lotie came over and put a bear in front of me and I asked her what was that all about, She replied and said, "Blue is always drinking and spending all the money he earns and hardly gives Marianne any money for food, she came in tonight to get some money from him and of course he is drunk already and told her to get lost, he gives her money when he is good and ready, She said to him you can stay as long as you like just give me some money so I can buy food for the kids, they do have to small children, and he gave her nothing and she burst into tears." What a bastard I replied." Lottie said it is very sad, she is such a lovely girl." I did ask her original if she would be able to help that weekend, and she said she can't as she has no one to look after the children as Blue would never do it, that's why Gus asked you if Chris could help."

I told Klaus and Ludwig that I am helping out with the band, and they were astounded that I was musical as well.

The time came for me to join the band and we started paying gentle diner music.

The evening progressed extremely well, Chris was as busy as hell and of course I could see money disappearing down her front. Doug McCallumn saluted me and so did many others. I think after this weekend I am known as the Andamooka Drummer instead of the Andamooka Miner. It is just a shame that Johnny could not come

he would enjoy this, I am sure. We created such an interest that a lot of people just came down to have a drink and listened to the Band. In our Interval Laszlo Started playing his Banjo and he was really good and the people enjoyed it very much. I said to Pancho why we don't have him come up and play with us. Pancho replied that's a great idea, I said I speak with him, and went over to Laszlo and asked him, he told his wife and he came up and took his position in the front of the Bass Guitar. He was very good whenever we started he followed right along and mastered every tune and song absolutely perfect. The Patrons here really enjoyed the performance we put on for them.

The evening went by and we started to slow down and some of the people were leaving, but there was no stopping to the crowd on Bills tables.

Chris came over and she said to me, I am so tired I never had this much pressure, I am glad when I get home to take these shoes off and soak my feet for an hour."

Well the people are disappearing and I am sure Lottie will send you home shortly." I replied.

By about 12:30 Lottie came over to my table and put a small parcel there and said this is a bit of Pork Roast and some roast potatoes we have left, we cannot sell it as it is the end and the beginning of the Roast, so you might as well take it home with you, I tell Chris she can go as we will be able to manage, she was a tremendous help again even more so this evening as we had double the crowd from last night, tomorrow will be a lot easier as we will close at 10pm and I am sure there will be a lot of hangovers." I laughed and thanked her. She went to see Chris which was clearing the tables and told her when she finished her section to go home.

She put something in to Chris's hand and Chris just finished her last table and shouted out good night to everyone, went across to Bill's table and thanked Bill and gave him a kiss on Cheek. He pulled her on his knees and said," If you weren't married to the drummer boy I would take you with me." Chris smiled and thanked him again and said I see tomorrow.

I got up said good night to the boys from the band shouted out a good night and we left.

In the car the first thing Chris did was taking off her shoes, I said "when we get home I will rub your feet," She smiled and replied "we done that before but it never stops there," I said "any complaints about that," she looked at me with a smile on her face and replied, "on the contrary."

This evening turned out to be a real financially rewarding event

We arrived home, and Johnny was asleep on the couch Beatrix sleeping in her bed everything was nice and tidy. I woke Johnny up and said thanks mate, you better hit the sack tomorrow is a sleep in day. He said good night and disappeared into his room.

We sat on the couch. Chris totaled the money and including her pay from Lottie who gave her \$150.00 today Chris made a nice sum of \$475.00 Dollars, she told me every one was tipping her including Steve and Stella they gave her a \$10 tip. She had a lot of coins this time also what people left on the tray as well when they paid the bill. She told me that Bill and his guests had drunk 18 bottles of Gus's best Champaign.

I started rubbing Chris's feet and she said "darling I am really tired do you mind?" Of course not, let me make up the bed and off you go.

When we were in bed and she just snuggled into my armpit she said, "It is amazing all this money here on the opal fields." Yes I came to the conclusion; the fields can make or break you." I responded "Good Night Darling". All I got back from Chris was a "Hmmm" she was asleep. I snuffed out the lamp, and closed my eyes and I was gone as well.

+++++

July 2012 Gem & Mineral Shows

More shows can be found at <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

4-8—SISTERS, OR: Annual show; Wayne & Jean Miller; Sisters Elementary School; 611 E. Cascade; Daily 9-6, Sun. 9-4; free admission; contact Jean Miller, PO Box 136, 702 E. 5th, Molalla, OR 97038, (503) 829-2680; e-mail: shadow92337@molalla.net; Web site: ogmshows.com

6-8—DURANGO, CO: 59th annual show; Four Corners Gem & Mineral Club; La Plata County Fairgrounds; 2500 Main Ave.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; crystals, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, exhibits, displays, dealers; contact Toby Mourning, PO Box 955, Durango, CO 81302-0955; e-mail: info@durangorocks.org; Web site: www.durangorocks.org

12-15—CASCADE LOCKS, OR: Annual show; Rock Rustlers; Marina Park; Columbia River Gorge, Marina Dr.; Daily 10-6; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, beads; contact Cindy Allison, 87987 9th, Veneta, OR 97487, (541) 554-2863; e-mail: gemsareus2@yahoo.com

13-15—RIVERSIDE, CA: Annual show, CFMS show; CFMS, Valley Prospectors; Riverside Municipal Auditorium; 3485 Mission Inn Ave.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$4, students (12-17) \$3, children (under 12) free; dealers, demonstrators, gold panning, exhibits; contact Pat LaRue, PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377, (909) 874-5664; e-mail: bplarie@earthlink.net; Web site: www.cfmsinc.org

13-15—SAN RAFAEL, CA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; Marin Center; 10 Avenue of the Flags; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), \$7, children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

20-22—LYNDEN, WA: Annual show; Gem Faire Inc.; NW WA Fair & Events Center; 1775 Front St.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

20-22—REEDSPORT, OR: Annual show; Lower Umpqua Gem & Lapidary; Reedsport Community Bldg.; 451 Winchester Ave.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; "Treasures from the Earth", dealers, jewelry, gems, minerals, demonstrators, cabochoning, wire wrapping, glass bead making, gem and mineral displays, door prizes, silent auctions, raffle, kids' activities, "turn me over rocks", ball toss, thunder egg cutting; contact Bill or VA Hendrickson, (541) 271-6816

21-22—DARRINGTON, WA: Show and sale; Darrington Rock & Gem Club; Grange Hall; 1265 Railroad Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; displays, demonstrations, door prizes, raffle, all amateur dealers, unusual materials, certificates for every dollar purchase (redeem for club's rocks), on-site rock cutting and polishing; contact Edward Lehman, 9120 20th St. SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258, (425) 334-6282; e-mail: wsmced@hotmail.com

21-22—FLAGSTAFF, AZ: Retail show; Sharon Szymanski; Radisson Woodlands Hotel; 1175 W. Rte. 66; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, children (under 12) free with adult; dealers, fine and costume jewelry, sterling silver and gold, minerals, rocks, slabs, cabochons, crystals, beads, unset gemstones, wire wrapping on the premises; contact Sharon Szymanski, 1792 E. Laddos Ave., San Tan Valley, AZ 85140, (480) 215-9101; e-mail: goldcanyon2@yahoo.com

21-22—KALISPELL, MT: 5th annual show; The Northwest MT Rock Chucks; Northwest MT Fairgrounds; 265 N. Meridian Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$1, children (under 12) free; dealers, jewelry, rocks, minerals, fluorescent minerals, kids' activities, demonstrations, silent auctions, door prizes, raffles; contact Milah Gano, (406) 844-3560; e-mail: mallards_g@hotmail.com

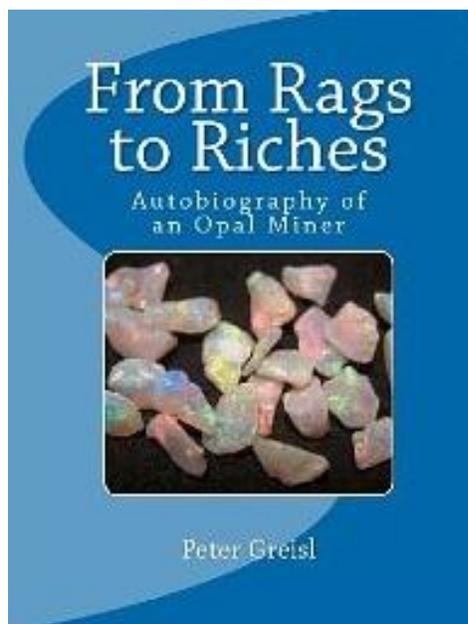
27-29—EUGENE, OR: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; Lane County Event Center; 796 W. 13th Ave.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (weekend pass), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors, on-site jewelry repair; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

27-29—PENDLETON, OR: Show; Jean Miller; Pendleton Convention Center; 601 Westgate; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils; contact Jean Miller, PO Box 136, 702 E. 5th, Molalla, OR 97038, (503) 829-2680; e-mail: shadow92337@molalla.net; Web site: ogmshows.net

28-29—TENINO, WA: 18th annual show; WA Agate & Mineral Society of Olympia; Parkside Elementary School; Stage St. S.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free admission; tailgating, indoor dealers, display cases, demonstrations, concurrent with OR Trail Days Celebration; contact Daniel De Boer, PO Box 2553, Olympia, WA 98507; e-mail: keylock1@live.com

"FROM RAGS TO RICHES"

The book, ***From Rags to Riches*** by Peter Greisl, that has been printed a chapter at a time in this newsletter is finally in print. ***From Rags to Riches*** is the autobiography of a real opal miner in the Australian Outback town of Andamooka.



To purchase the book, please visit the website, <http://opalover.com> and follow the online purchasing instructions.

You can also contact Peter Greisl personally and place an order. You can contact Peter at +61 417 555923 or e-mail him at gem@opalover.com. Peter will accept MasterCard, Visa, or PayPal.

Peter will return your call, you can send a text with your Card details including CVV and complete Shipping address, He will text you back with the shipping or postage cost prior to processing your card.

Advertise in this Space!

Business Card Size: \$ 5 per month

Quarter Page Size: \$10 per month

Half Page Size: \$20 per month

Full Page Size: \$40 per month

Contact:

The Opal Express C/O

Jim Pisani

P.O. Box 4875

Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

E-mail: editor@opalsociety.org

Custom Creative Gem Cutting

Stan M. McCall

Lapidary and Jewelry Artist

Custom Jewelry Designs & Repairs

Gemstone Cutting & Repolishing

Diamonds, Opals, Colored Stones

(714) 220-9282

6029 Orange Ave. Cypress, CA 90630

<http://home.earthlink.net/~custom-creative/>

custom-creative@earthlink.net

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-3pm. Appointments Also Available

American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES)	AMOUNT PAID
DUES: SELECT ONE	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$30	
	NEW MEMBERS	\$40	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$10	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)		\$5	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your First Badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$10	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:			

Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:
American Opal Society; PO BOX 4875; Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

An optional, quicker method of payment is via the Internet. To pay, just visit the membership page on our website at http://opalsociety.org/aos_application_by_web.htm and complete the form. You may pay with a Credit Card or via PayPal account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. The AOS PayPal account is membership@opalsociety.org.

NAME			
BUSINESS NAME			
ADDRESS		APT # or PO BOX	
CITY		STATE	
ZIP or POSTAL CODE		COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)	
PHONE - Home ()	PHONE - Business ()	FAX ()	
E-MAIL			
WEBSITE			
OCCUPATION		HOBBIES AND INTERESTS	

NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:
 PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE using up to two (2) lines of text for your name, nickname, or name of your opal related business.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: The AOS publishes a membership directory once per year in its Newsletter, the *Opal Express*. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information that you want listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

Address Phone E-mail Website

Please sign here: _____ Date _____

<p>The Opal Express is published monthly by The American Opal Society. Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. <i>Non-Commercial Reprint Permission Granted Unless Otherwise Reserved.</i> Editor-Jim Pisani Please address all inquiries and exchange newsletters to: The Opal Express C/O Jim Pisani P.O. Box 4875 Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875 E-mail: editor@opalsociety.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Are Your Dues Due Now?</p> <p>PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL or NEWSLETTER E-MAIL. There should be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue. A warning will be stated if you are overdue. A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be <u>AUTOMATICALLY</u> dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current. Thank you,</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The Editor</i></p>
--	--

The Opal Express

American Opal Society
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

**Volume #45 Issue #7
July 2012**

Some Topics In This Issue:

- Dunstan's Stone - First Famous Opal
- NSW Mining Town Steals Hearts
- Rose, White, & Green Gold Jewelry?
- Mining and Mineral Staff Hope for Deal
- Rags to Riches, Ch. 24 – The New Home

Important Dates:

July 10 - Board Meeting

July 12 - General Meeting:

Opal Cutting Seminar. The AOS will have Pixie lapidary sets and experienced cutters for opal cutting demonstrations and cutting help.

Bring in your opal to cut. The AOS will also provide rough to cut.

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

2nd Thurs. of the Month
7:00 pm - 9:00 PM

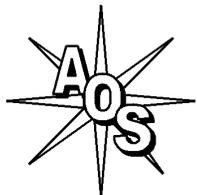
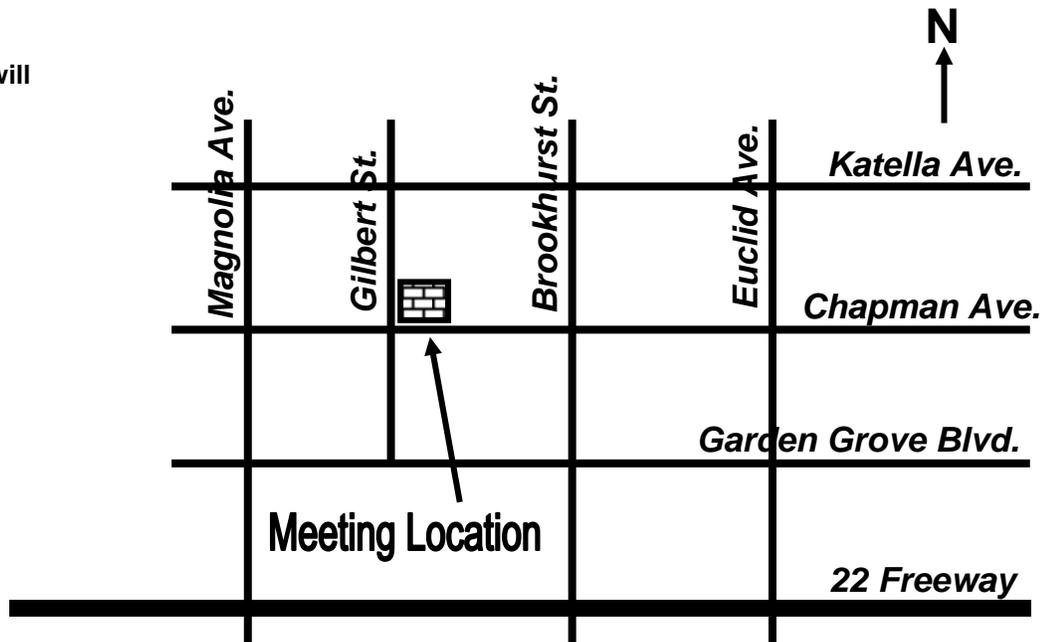
Garden Grove Civic Women's Club
9501 Chapman Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92841
(NE corner of Gilbert & Chapman)

MEETING ACTIVITIES

Opal Cutting, Advice, Guest Speakers,
Slide Shows, Videos, Other Activities

TO:

July 12th General Meeting Opal Cutting Seminar



The American Opal Society

<http://OpalSociety.org>

Pete Goetz	President	(714) 530-3530	email: mpg1022@aol.com
Jim Pisani	Editor & Webmaster	(714) 815-4638	email: editor@opalsociety.org
Gene LeVan	Show Chairman	(562) 208-7494	email: fineblackopal@sprynet.com