



American Opal Society

Monthly Newsletter

September 5, 1974

Meeting Dates:

September.....Thursday, September 12, 1974

October.....Thursday, October 3, 1974

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Downey Moose Lodge 663

12741 S. Bellflower (Second Floor), Downey, California

August Meeting:

There have been many new members who have joined the Society since we last had a talk on the origins, the purpose, aims and goals of the American Opal Society. It is necessary for the sake of these new members that we clear the air occasionally with a re-introduction to the Society. AOS President Doc Stambler used the evening to bring everybody current in the various projects in which the Society is engaged.

The primary and by far the most ambitious project is, of course, the opal seminar being presented in conjunction with our annual opal show. It is probably the greatest thing which has ever happened in the opal world. Probably nowhere else in the world will there be found such a massive display of opal rough, cut and polished stones, opal jewelry of every description, private displays which bug the eyes and boggle the mind, with opal experts in every phase of our fascinating craft, assembled in one area. As you know, we have people coming from all over the world to our annual shows. This one promises to be a real extravaganza.

We hope that again this year we will have many of our associate members making the trip to the show. Some members use the occasion to combine a little business with pleasure, while others come just for the sheer pleasure. Have you planned your trip yet?

September Meeting:

The September meeting will be devoted to appraisal of finished stones and jewelry which Society members wish to sell in the AOS sales booth.

Those of you not actively participating in the appraisal work are asked to bring your braggin' rocks, your latest jewelry creations, or that pet rough which you have wanted to get some advice on how to cut. Your creations may be just the inspiration and incentive others need to set the world on fire with one of their own.

Those who wish to sell material from the AOS booth should remember that 75% of the sales will be items which sell for under 50.00. About 15% will range from 50.00 to 75.00, and only about 10% will be for items priced over 75.00. Very few sales are made on items priced over 100.00. This poses quite a problem, since with the price of gold where it is

today it is rather difficult to come up with a presentable stone set in gold for under 50.00.

Each member wishing to sell material is asked to limit himself to a maximum of 40 line items, any combination of stones and/or opal jewelry. All opal should be cut and polished, cab or baroque. No opal rough will be accepted unless it is of such a state or condition that it will lend itself to mounting in a piece of jewelry without further cutting or polishing.

Item:

Leonard Bishop has graciously volunteered to accept the position of Program Chairman. Anybody with past experience in this post is asked to assist Leonard however and whenever he can.

Anybody who has any information on anybody with any expertise in opal or related subjects is asked to contact Leonard. This applies if you have any ideas for a program, or if you are a member of or know of any rock club which has had any success with any subject, person, or thing which may be suitable and appropriate for a presentation at one of our meetings. Any such information should be passed on to Leonard at our monthly meetings, or mailed to him at P.O. Box 3895, Downey, California 90242.

Item:

The Board of Directors meeting to be held on September 26th will be a combination Board meeting and appraisal session. Those who have items to be appraised at this meeting are asked to arrive at 7:30 promptly, at the Norwalk County Library, across the parking lot from the Norwalk Civic Center at 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

Please make a note of the Directors meeting dates, the last Thursday of each month. We would like to see more members show up at these meetings. They are very interesting and informative, and sometimes the shouting will keep you wide awake.

Item:

Doc has come up with an original idea. Our identification badges display a lack of originality and Doc suggests a contest in applying an opal motif to them in the form of opal stones, triplets, or what have you.

So give a little thought to how you might beautify your badge with your own opal design. I think Doc said there will be a 25.00 prize for the winning design.

Judging will be based on originality, eye appeal, and perfection of artistry or craftsmanship. The largest or most expensive stone will not necessarily win, which will broaden the field of participants.

The judges of the contest are Adrienne Youkon, Elmer Reed, and your editor, Vick Mayo. Be sure to read your next issue of the newsletter for more news of this challenging, exciting event.

Item:

Members who plan to enter a display case at the show and who have not yet advised Naomi Bartholomew are asked to do so at good old P.O. Box 3895.

Item:

The regular general meeting for the month of October will be held on the first Thursday of the month, October 3rd. Please make a note of this. It will alleviate some of the hustle and bustle for the weekend of our annual show.

Got it? October meeting -- October 3rd.

Item:

There has been a change in the program for the Opal Seminar. Sharr Choate will be unable to attend that weekend and we have arranged to replace her with a presentation on the same subjects by Mike Albritton, who is known for his work as an instructor of design classes at the Gemological Institute of America. Mike is articulate, an expert in his field, and is well known to those AOS members who are GIA students and graduates.

Item:

Some of the pleasures we find in attending the general meetings are the continual surprises we receive in seeing new stones and new jewelry designs created by our fellow members. We look forward to these extra bonuses and share the joy and pride of the creators of these pieces.

Those who attended the August meeting were treated to a fantastic surprise. One of our guests was Miss Lulu Rebal, who attended the meeting with several friends. Miss Rebal is the niece of the owner of the Virgin Valley, Nevada opal mines. She brought with her five uncut stones of fabulous beauty. There were four stones weighing probably several hundred carats each. They were incredibly brilliant and were truly collectors items to be proud of.

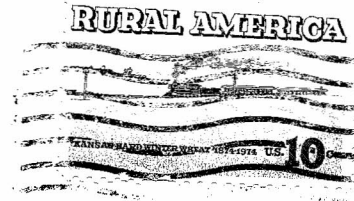
The jewel of the collection was an unbelievable crystal stone of about 3300 carats, with fire of every color and description. This majestic giant has been valued at \$250,000 and has to be seen to be believed.

It will be on display at our annual show. Look for it.

And look for other rare treats and surprises at our general meetings.....

Vick Mayo, Editor.

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