



American Opal Society

MONTHLY NEWS-LETTER

Meeting Dates:

August Thursday, August 13th

September..... Thursday, September 11th

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Downey Moose Lodge 663
12741 S. Bellflower (Second Floor), Downey, California

August Meeting:

We had the pleasure of viewing the movie, "Catch The Fire", from Princess Gems Incorporated. This is the first movie we have received from Princess Gems and it was very well received. We are all looking forward to more movies from this fine Corporation.

September Meeting:

Every year certain events are looked forward to; Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years and even the American Opal Society has one - the Opal Appraisal Session before the Show.

Again Elmer Reed, has offered his vast knowledge and time to teach and assist us in the art of Opal appraising, so bring any pieces of jewelry or stones that you wish appraised.

Item:

Marvin Wilson, Show Chirman, a man who not only gave many hours for the American Opal Society, but who has helped many members through his knowledge, is unfortunately now in the hospital recovering from

heart surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery so that he can soon rejoin us.

Item:

As show time nears (October 11th and 12th), I wish personally to call on all members of the American Opal Society to see if they have time to offer to the committees that are working on the show. It's been my observation that seemingly easy jobs or tasks are much harder than they appear and this situation becomes most apparent in the few months before show time. So if anyone has an extra few hours it would be extremely appreciated if they would donate it to a committee. For a run-down on committees needing a helping hand, please come to the next meeting of the American Opal Society and ask!

R E A D

Just a reminder for anyone wishing to display in the October Show. Please send the following information to:

R. L. Bartholomew
354 North Hartley
West Covina, California 91790

IMMEDIATELY!

Size of case_____	Name_____
Length_____	Address_____
Width_____	Phone Number_____
Height_____	

MATRIX OPAL

TREATING PROCESS

1. GENERAL RULES:
 - a. All temperature changes must be gradual. Always allow to cool to room temperature, slowly.
 - b. Sulphuric acid is extremely dangerous to skin, eyes, etc!
 - c. Never allow temperature to get above 212 deg. Fahrenheit.
2. WORKING OPAL MATRIX:
 - a. Work as you would ordinary Opal, cut, trim, shape and sand, but do not polish, before treatment.
3. TREATING PROCESS:
 - a. Desalt Opal by soaking in clear water, changing water several times for 3 days.
 - b. Dehydrate sanded cabs in oven for six to eight hours, put in cold oven bring slowly to 150 to 200 degrees, cool very slowly.
 - c. Dilute 2 cups sugar* in three cups distilled water, mix enough to insure that the water at least doubles the depth of the stones that are placed in a pyrex type container, cover with heat proof dish.
 - d. Place in oven, bring temperature gradually to 150 to 200 degrees, maintain even temperature for two days (more time is needed on some matrix Opal). Turn off oven, but do not open until room temperature is reached.
 - e. Drain off sugar mixture, rinse lightly and quickly in luke warm tap water. Clean pyrex container, replace stones and cover with full strength commercial sulphuric acid, about one and one-half times the depth of the stones, replace lid and place in cool oven, bring to working temperature gradually, (150 to 200 deg.), leave for sixteen to twenty hours, cool oven gradually. Inspect Opals using rubber gloves and tongs, the desired color should have evolved. If the desired blackness has not been reached, replace and bring slowly up to temperature and leave for another six hours. If it is not then dark enough, either the Opal is not good treating matrix or sugar process must be redone.
 - f. Pour off acid into water, never pour water into acid! Wash stones and give final polish.

The beauty of these stones are surely worth all the trouble of this permanent carbonizing process.

*Undiluted honey may be used in place of sugar water.

If matrix Opal was purchased from Australian Imports, we will do the treating process for you at no charge.

This process was given to me for insertion in Newsletter, by Ruby and Jim Rudd. Next month I will continue with maps of the North American Continent Opal Mines. Mr. Rudd was telling me about a Lemon Colored Opal, mined in the northern part of the United States. Maybe we can get a good description of it.

Thanks,

Bill Judd

P.S. If you have a copy of an Opal Mine which can be used in our Newsletter, please send it to P. O. Box 3895, Downey, California 90242.

AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3895
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