



The OPAL EXPRESS



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JANUARY 1985

LET'S HEAR
IT FOR '85!!

...HATS OFF TO THE 1985 STAFF OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS...

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PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH....

The title of our organization is the American Opal Society. We are a non-profit organization devoted to disseminating knowledge, promoting the appreciation of opal, and the teaching of evaluating, cutting and polishing opal in all its forms.

We are the best known organization in the United States or any other country including Australia that represents the most unique gemstone created by nature.

Diamond is the king of gemstones, opal is the queen, all others are of lesser nobility.

Diamonds have DeBeers, pearls have the government of Japan, colored stones have the American Gem Association and G.I.A. The colored stone industry has done a tremendous job in the last three years in promoting all stones of various worth from a minor position in the jewelry and investment industry to a major part of these industries. Good opal meanwhile is disappearing as a gemstone. Jewelers Circular Keystone, the major magazine of the jewelry trade, no longer lists opal as a gemstone.

Opal is too fantastic and unique in its colors, patterns and scintillation, it is too valuable a gemstone to be downgraded to a minor place in the gem trade without at least trying to restore it to its rightful place as a major most valuable gem.

I have been show chairman for three years and know what is happening with our opal dealers. I have watched year after year the declining sales of opal. The American Opal Society needs to move forward now or it may be too late.

If this society is going to live up to its mandate as the principal representative of opal in this world, we need to start this year. The board of directors and I will need your help to make a start. We can suggest and propose the direction in which we would like to go. Without you, the members, to help with your suggestions, criticism and active aid, we will be no more than we are today, a dying rock club that specialises in cutting opal.

What I want to start tonight will take years to accomplish. If the membership desires to put forth the effort this is going to require, some day in the future the American Opal Society will be the premier representative of opal in the world with chartered chapters throughout the United States. Thank you.

A S T U D Y I N O P A L

SOMETHING EXCITING FOR JANUARY

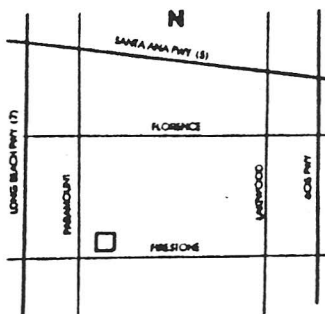
"Australian Opal"

By special invitation, Mr. Bob Fedorowytsch of Magill South Australia has agreed to headline our January meeting. He will be carrying a range of stocks from \$2.50 per oz. up to \$3,000 per oz. for rough opal, and he will also have quite a variety of cut stones.

Included on the evening's agenda will be a talk on opals followed by an 8 mm film on the mines at Coober Pedy. Bob will put on an opal display allowing AOS members to buy at the same good deal offered earlier by Mr. Murray Willis, that is, a 20% discount. He will have some lovely opals from both Coober Pedy and Mintubi, including Mintubi black seam.

Don't miss this opportunity to take advantage of this special offer, as well as to learn of some of Australia's finest opals.

That's Thursday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m., at 8211 E. Firestone Blvd., Downey



Opal

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

Buying Rough Opal

"How do I buy rough opal and know that it will yield a profit to me?" This is perhaps the question most asked! Here is a simple rule of thumb calculation.

- #1. Find the cost of rough opal per gram.
- #2. Divide this cost by 5 which equals the price of rough opal per carat.
- #3. Multiply this answer by 3 (assuming you will lose 2/3 of the opal in cutting.)

The answer represents your cost of the finished cabochon per ct. (no overhead).

Example: A. Cost of rough opal is \$150 per oz. Approximately \$5.00 per gram. $\$5.00 \div 5 = \1.00 . (Cost of rough opal is \$1.00 per carat.)

B. $\$1.00 \times 3 = \3.00 which is your approximate cost per carat of the polished cab.

All you have to do is look at the opal at \$150 per oz. and say, "will this cut out \$10 per carat opal?" If it will you can "cut your way out of the parcel."

Courtesy of Australian Imports
Clarence V. Rudd & Son

HELP !!

We, the Opal Express staff, are trying to build a newsletter archive. We are missing a very important piece of AOS history. Can you please help us? The following issues of the Newsletter are missing from our files:

All issues from 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971; January through October of 1972; September of 1974; all issues from 1975 and 1976; and January through July, September and October of 1977.

If you have these issues but are reluctant to part with them, perhaps we could borrow them so that we can make a copy and then return them to you.

IMPORTANT

Every January it becomes necessary to once again appeal to our members to renew their membership. The dues are, as they have been for many years, \$12.00 for local, and \$6.00 for associate members. We are entering our 18th year of operation and foresee an ever expanding future ahead, with your help and support. Please mail your check, payable to American Opal Society, P.O. Box 3895, Downey, CA 90242, along with the enclosed form. Thanks very much.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ State _____ Zip* _____

*P.S. Please help us to help the post office. All of our computer programs have been modified for the new 9-digit zip code. We can now use this to more speedily send all our correspondence to you. Please inform us of your 9-digit zip codes. Thanks.



.....WELCOME to our youngest opaholic, David Aaron Knieling, born to Tom and Rosalia on December 18, 1984. Tiny David tipped the scales at 5 lbs., 14 oz., at 3:37 a.m., measuring 18-1/2". Mother and Dad are understandably elated over their joyous Christmas present; and we send our heartiest CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to the Knielings.



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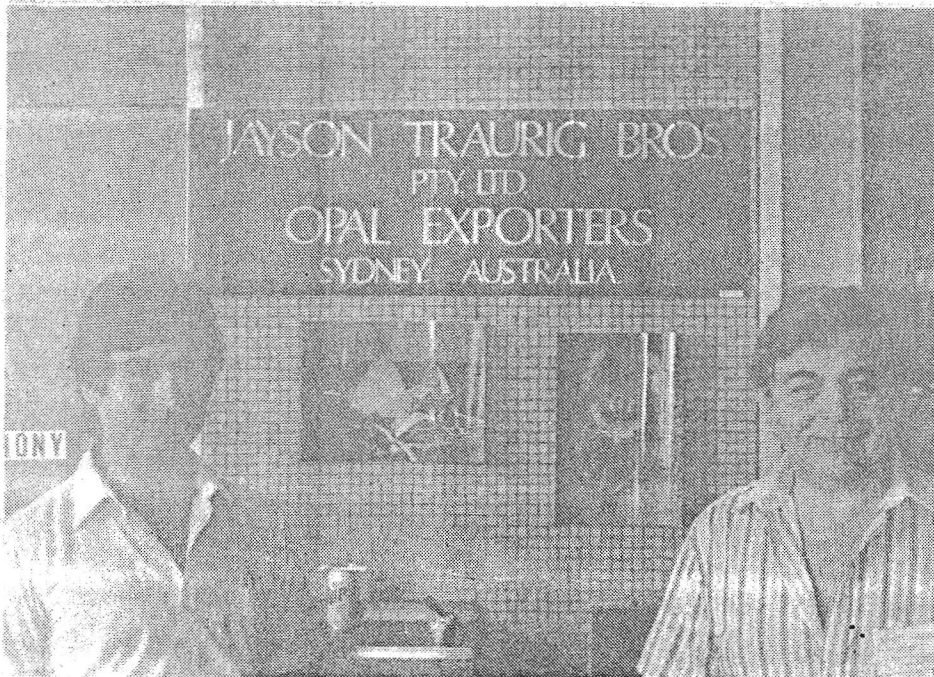
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