

# Diablo

MERRY - CHRISTMAS



Schleic © 12/81

Dec. 01

**Contra  
Costa**  
MINERAL + GEM SOC  
CONCORD - WALNUT Creek



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Diablo Diggin  
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Soc.  
PO Box 4667  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

# Diablo Diggins



## Holiday Pot Luck is our activity for December

By *Ann Matthews, Vice President-Programs*

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Mark your calendar and save the date! Our annual Christmas party will be held on the regular meeting night, Friday, Dec. 14th at the First Presbyterian Church in Concord. Doors will open at 6:30 and dinner will be at 7:00 PM.

We will again have a **potluck dinner**, which will include a ham provided by the Club. Please bring a side dish that compliments ham, such as scalloped potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables, etc., a salad, or a dessert and your own plates and eating utensils.

We will be doing the Christmas **ornament exchange** again. Please keep it related to our hobby – or something homemade would be just as nice. Remember, for the ornament exchange, if you bring one, you will receive one. With all the talented people in our Club we should have some interesting new ideas.

Members are welcome to bring their family or a friend. See you at the party – Ho, Ho, Ho!

## A TIME TO BE THANKFUL & A TIME TO HELP

Our Christmas Potluck Table really is a "Groaning" one with all the delicious dishes provided by all the great cooks. While we give thanks for this repast, please give a thought to those less fortunate. The Contra Costa Food Bank provides some relief to the needy. But we can also help if each one attending the Christmas Party brings a can or package of non-perishable foods. Last year our members donated 49 lbs. of food items. **CAN we do better this year!?** So it is time to share some extra food you may have in your pantry with the **Food Bank**.



Each member is asked to bring a can or package of nonperishable goods to the December meeting. At this Special Holiday Season, may our contributions end hunger for our less fortunate neighbors. May this holiday season bring you and your family health and happiness. Thank you in advance from the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

**Next Meeting** is December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street, Concord. Corner of Salvio & Colfax Strs. Free parking at City of Concord garage on Salvio.





## Field Trips

By Hazel Woolsey, Vice President

COOP trips are rescheduled frequently! ALWAYS call before driving a long way for nothing! To assist, the COOP group has established a web site where their latest field trip information can be accessed.

<http://www.coop.freesevers.com/coop-fieldtrips.html>.

Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2002: Wiley Wells Federation Trip. Contact Dick Pankey @ 925-439-7509

## Wiley Well District Field Trip-Take 2

January 28 - February 1, 2002

Back by popular demand. We had such a great field trip in 2000 we are going to do it again in 2002. We will be celebrating the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the dedication of this area as the Hauser Bed Educational and Recreational Area. We will collect at the traditional sites as well as some new ones. A great variety of materials are available to collect in the Wiley Well District. There are several productive geode beds including Hauser Beds, Roads End, Potato Patch, Straw Beds and Hidden Saddle Beds. All of these sites are in the Black Hills. Agate, chalcedony, jasper, pastelite, botryoidal psilomelane and crystal filled amygdules are found throughout the hills and washes. Another major rock hound attraction is the Opal Hill fire agate mine. This is a fee dig area located in the Mule Mts. Besides the very fine fire agate, quartz crystal "flowers", calcite crystals, chalcedony

nodules and other mineral specimens can be found.

The end of January may seem like a long way off, but not for rock hounds planning their annual pilgrimage to Quartzsite and for planning our field trip to one of the finest collecting areas in southeast California. Five days of collecting are planned for the CFMS - North field trip to the Wiley Well District on Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 2002. This is a Monday through Friday. The Wiley Well area is a long-time, well known collecting area for geodes, agate, pastelite, psilomelane, fire agate, chalcedony roses, petrified wood; and much, much more. The Wiley Well area is southwest of Blythe. We will camp just off the Wiley Well road about 12.5 miles south of I-10. The campsite is a large, flat, open area suitable for trailers, motor homes and tents.

This field trip is being planned to coordinate with the activities at Quartzsite. The QIA and Tyson Well Shows are running a week earlier this year. Main Event and Desert Garden will have their traditional schedule. The QIA POW Wow runs Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. Our field trips will start Monday morning, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. Betty and I will be at the campsite by late Sunday morning.

This is a beautiful time of year to visit the California desert. The weather is typically sunny and mild. The cacti, bushes and wild flowers are coming into bloom. Mark your calendars now (Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 2002) and plan to join us for this great rock hound event. Besides the daily collecting trips, we will have several potluck dinners, daily happy hours and evening campfires.

### Schedule

Sunday Jan. 27. Arrive at camp.

Monday Jan. 28. AM-Hauser Beds for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging Tools-shovels, picks, gads, etc. Explore the Corn Field for corn colored, crystal lined amygdules.

Tuesday, Jan. 29 AM. Potato Patch for egg-size geodes. Digging Tools. Explore new site--The Big Windy for

botryoidal psilomelane, geodes and nodules.

Wednesday, Jan 30 AM. Straw Bed for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging tools. South of Camp on Milpitas Wash Road for psilomelane.

Thursday and Friday, Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, destinations to be announced.



## Education Report

By Dick Pankey, Education Chair

**A Big Thank You to Ophelia Hicks** for the great soapstone carving class on October. Seventeen people attended this class and made a variety of soapstone figures.

No classes in December. For our January class **Donal Tompkins** will give a class on knapping using the pressure flaking technique on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This class will be held in Room 208, at the Diablo Valley Adult Education Center, 3100 Oak Park Blvd., in Pleasant Hill at 7:00 PM. There are 15 openings and preference will be given to people who did not take Don's previous classes. Tools and arrowhead blanks will be provided, but if you have your own tools, please bring them along. Glasses or goggles and leather gloves are **strongly** recommended. Our knapping projects will be done with obsidian.

I hope you all enjoyed this year's classes and project nights. I know the instructors were pleased with the classes and the turnout. So far for next year I have scheduled the following classes: knapping, bead stringing, wire art (wire wrap) jewelry, silver jewelry fabrication, 2 project/craft nights and critter night. I am looking for ideas and instructors for 4 more classes. Please contact me with your ideas. We have



lots of talented people in the CCM&GS. Please share some of your time and your talent. If anyone has a class they would like to teach, please let me know. I will be happy to help you plan and prepare. We are having good participation in our classes and we appreciate the people who have stepped forward to share their time and expertise. Also, please let me know what classes you are interested in and I will try to find teachers.

The Education Committee was active at our Show. We had a welcome table for the kids in the front lobby. **Mary Crenshaw** had another new version of the **Rock Hound Treasure Hunt**. Over 130 children (and several "older kids") participated in our rockhound treasure hunt. They picked up the Treasure Hunter's question sheet and explored the Show in search of the answers. When they completed the questions, they got an Official Rockhound badge and signed their names on the Official Junior Rockhound list. We also passed out some Rockhound activity sheets and an article on how to become a Rockhound. Petrified wood specimens were given to all the children.

Each day of the Show there were slide presentations and lectures. Topics included Gem Stone Update, Black Diamond Mines, Hard Rock Mining, stereoscopic mineral specimens, glaciers, the Wiley Well field trip and Fascinating Obsidian. There were 2 guest presenters: **Bob Kanagaki** and **Dennis Shelley**. **Barrie Bieler**, **Sherb Brown** and I were the member presenters. **A Big Thank You** to each and all of the presenters.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to **Jim and Mary Bufton**, **Joe Yarbrough**, **Bob Pevahouse**, **Mary Ann King**, **Betty Pankey**, **Connie Klein Duaine Eggleston**, **Jim High**, **Ophelia Hicks**, and **Brownie Cameron** who shared their projects and supplied display items for the Education Cases at the Show. We filled 2 cases with items from each of our 10 classes. The cases attracted a lot of attention and interest of members who missed out on these classes because they got to see all that they had

missed. These cases attracted a lot of attention from non-members, too. The cases showed the broad spectrum of our interests.

I hope you all saw our four Educational panels that were on display at the front entrance. They are available to all members for talks at schools, scouts or anywhere else. They are also available to teachers at local schools. The panels are easy to use and very understandable and are applicable for all ages. Please see **Lee King** or me if you would like to use them to give a presentation or know of an organization that would like to use them.

**Ophelia Hicks** presented the video **Russian Gems** by Bob Jones to the Adult School class Cultural Studies for the Traveler (40 people). She displayed and talked about the rocks that are mined in the Ural Mountains of Russia.



## Ecology

By **Glen Mackenzie**, Ecology Chair,  
from *Mineral Memos*, Antioch Club

Important BLM Website. There's a very interesting BLM website at [www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/lawsuit.html](http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/lawsuit.html) unfortunately it does show all the areas that have been closed because of the desert tortoise.

There is just too much information to print in a newsletter, but if you are truly interested, take a look. But I must warn you that this website is very scary, if you have weak constitution you might not want to look.

If you would like to request maps of all the areas currently under review, and those scheduled for future review respond in writing to:

Bureau of Land Management

Attn: West Mojave Planning Team  
6221 Box Springs Blvd.  
Riverside, CA. 92507

These maps are free and show all the proposed road closures.



## The Reading Room

By **Marlow Hicks**, Librarian

Additions to the library as of November 15, 2001

### VHS Tapes

- Mysteries of Evolution, 1 Hr 30 Min,  
Learning Channel #344
- Pipe Makers, The, 38 Min,  
Woodpecker Prod. #347
- Raising the Mammoth, 2 Hr,  
Learning Channel #342
- Rise of the Predators, 1 Hr,  
Learning Channel #345
- Russian Gem Treasures, 1 Hr,  
Bob Jones #356
- Sea Monsters, 1 Hr,  
Learning Channel #343
- Splendid Stones, 1 Hr,  
National Geographic #346
- Start to Sculpt Soapstone, 1 Hr  
W L Owens #348

### Books

- Common Fossil Plants of Western  
North America W D Tidwell #352
- Crystals and Crystal Growing, Holden  
& Singer #337
- Eldorado, Bayard Taylor #351
- Gem Stores of the United States,  
Geo.Survey 10425 #338
- Guidelines for Exhibiting, AFMS  
#349



Identifying Wood, R B Hoadley #353

Lapidary Journal Index '47 to '91, Lapidary Journal #340

Petrified Forests, U Dembachs #354

Petrified Wood, Student Book #355

Pony Express in Nevada, The, BLM #350

Southwest Indian Silver, Lincoln Louise #339

Traces of Catastrophe, B M French #341

## Gem for December

*By Mary Hicks, from McGraw Hill Concise Encyclopedia of Science & Technology, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.*

Turquoise. A mineral consisting of hydrated phosphate of aluminum and copper.  $CuAl_6(PO_4)_4(OH)_8 \cdot 4 H_2O$ , and prized as a semiprecious stone.  $Fe^{2+}$  may substitute for some Cu. Bone turquoise or odontolite, similar to turquoise, is formed in fossil bones or teeth and consists of microcrystalline apatite colored by a hydrated phosphate of iron (vivianite).

Generally turquoise occurs in veinlets or as crusts of massive dense, finely granular, concretionary, and stalactic shapes. The color of massive turquoise ranges through sky blue, bluish green, apple green, and greenish gray. The robin's-egg blue variety is the most valued. The blue color in turquoise is due to the presence of a small amount of copper; the presence of  $Fe^{2+}$  results in greenish hues.

Turquoise of gem quality is found at one or more localities in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada. Americans extensively exploited large deposits located in the Los Cerillos Mountains, southwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Fine-quality turquoise has been mined for at least 800 years from a deposit located on the south slopes of the Ali-Mirsa-Kuh Mountains near Nishapur, Iran. Siberia,

Turkistan, Asia Minor, the Sinai Peninsula, Silesia and Saxony in Germany, and France possess turquoise deposits.

## Stone of the Month

*By Douglas Rue*

Correction for September competition is Pro Class-Mary Bufton Crazy Lace Agate was awarded \$5.00.

Jim Bufton is the winner for his Pro Class cab specimen of Petrified Wood. Jim is awarded \$5.00 for his prize. Special mention to Barrie Bieler for his items entered in the Pro Class, an interesting flow patterned piece of obsidian and he also submitted a lovely faceted rutilated quartz.

## Membership

*By Jim Bufton, Membership Chair*

### ***DUES ARE DUE!!!!***



### New Members:

Welcome to our newest members to the club. Please join me in welcoming our new friends and fellow rock hounds.

**Alek DeWilde, Junior Member**

**Rosanne Hannan**

**Doug Malby**

**Kevin Malby, Junior Member**

**Ron & Nancy Morris**

**Donald & Sheila Palotta**

**Nora Palotta, Junior Member**

**Eric Sonnenthal**

**Nate Sonnenthal, Junior Member**

**Mary Jane Walker**

**Eric & Rosemary West**

**Anthony West, Junior Member**

**Molly West, Junior Member**

**Horace Young**



## Birthdays

<b>Sherry Pevahouse</b>	12/5
<b>Rosemary West</b>	12/8
<b>Mary Ellen Johnston</b>	12/12
<b>Edgar Miller</b>	12/16
<b>Darrel Brown</b>	12/21
<b>Mary Ellen Eggleston</b>	12/25
<b>Clayton Cochran</b>	12/26

## Kaalya Fox says Howdy

Greetings from the desert,

Just wanting to check in with you all to let you know I am settling in (at least for now) in Bisbee, AZ with my sister. Our trip here was an interesting, though a bit taxing, adventure of two people who are used to traveling alone taking on the task of traveling in tandem. So goes the current relationship. It actually is very rewarding also.

I am still unpacking and trying to find a place for everything. The biggest adjustment is from the metropolis where everything you want is available to the country where life is simple. Verizon Wireless does not exist anywhere near here so my cell phone works on analog only in certain isolated spots. The Internet is very slow (56k modem doesn't help) because of the archaic land lines in Old Bisbee.

At least I am back on line with my own computer. I had a few problems setting up my new ISP and the owner came over to the house to fix the problem, no charge.....that would never happen in California.



I am meeting a few people through my sister. Thursday night we went to the Fiber Arts Group and the hostess asked me to bring my jewelry to show. They (all artists) gave me great feedback and especially loved the crop circles (Light Circles). Interest is building and I will be back to the workbench by Monday. My enthusiasm is high.

## Thoughts

*Courtesy PlusMark™ via the  
Roaming Rams, Napa Gems 10/01*

As long as we have memories,  
yesterday remains.

As long as we have hope, tomorrow  
waits.

As long as we have friendship, today is  
beautiful.

## CFMS News

November 2001



## Safety Message

*By Mel Albright, AFMS Safety Chair*

### DIGGING AWAY

There you are. Happily digging away in a dirt bank. Or, happily climbing and digging in a waste pile. Or, going for China as you dig deeper and deeper looking for the big bragging find. (Just a little deeper. The big find might be down just a little more.)

Suddenly, the bank collapses - or, the pile slides and carries you down and maybe covers you - or, the sides of your deep hole collapse and bury you. To those brave souls who venture into mines, add, the sides collapse, and the roof falls.

How do you protect yourself?

First, understand the collapse is predictable. Anything that can be piled

up can come down. Some things - like the waste pile, collapse easily. Others, like the mine wall, are harder to start down. The deciding factor is a thing called the angle of recline. (No, nothing to do with how far you tilt your easy chair.) What the angle says is that any pile subject to the action of gravity has a critical angle. If the pile's angle with the ground is above that angle, the pile is not stable. So, when you look at a road cut, the angles on the sides aren't what the contractor decided was handy. They are set by the dirt's angle of repose with a safety factor added. A pile of marbles has a very small critical angle (almost 0 degrees). A stone bluff has a very high critical angle (almost 90 degrees).

In EVERY one of the places mentioned above, the angle of repose will be passed and collapse depends only on something to get it started. It may take only one more shovel full or another foothold dug in or someone wander by. If you're lucky, it won't happen. But, it is only luck protecting you.

So, whenever you are digging, keep safety in mind and take steps to protect yourself from harm if things let go around or from under you.

## CFMS Shows

**January 12-13 2002, Exeter, CA**  
Tule G&MS, Veteran's Memorial Bldg.,  
10-5 both days. Raymond Cooke  
(559)686-5669 or 733-0271

**February 1, 2, 3, 2002, Redlands, CA.**  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Micromount  
Conference. So. California Micro-  
Mineralogists, San Bernardino City  
Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane.,  
Beverly Moreau (714)577-8038. E-mail  
[bcmoreau@4dnet.com](mailto:bcmoreau@4dnet.com)  
[www.mineralsocal.org/micro/](http://www.mineralsocal.org/micro/)

**March 1-10, 2002, El Centro, CA**  
Imperial Valley G&MS, Expo & Fair.  
Monday through Thursday 4-10 and  
Friday through Sunday 10-10.

**March 2-3 2002, Arcadia, CA**  
Monrovia Rockhounds, The Arboretum  
LA City, Ayres Hall, 301 N. Baldwin

Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007. 9-4:30 both  
days. Jo Anna Ritchey (636)359-1624  
or [j.ritchey@verizon.net](mailto:j.ritchey@verizon.net)

**March 2-3 2002, Ventura, CA**  
Ventura G&MS, Seaside Park (Ventura  
County Fairgrounds), 10 West Harbor  
Blvd. Sat 9-5 & Sun 9-4. Jim Brace-  
Thompson (805)659-3577.  
[jbrace@juno.com](mailto:jbrace@juno.com) or [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**March 16-17 2002, San Jose, CA**  
Santa Clara Valley G&MS, Santa Clara  
County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road,  
San Jose, CA. Sat 10-6 & Sun 10-5.  
Ruth Bailey (408)248-6195 or  
[scvgms@aol.com](mailto:scvgms@aol.com)  
<http://chriscox.org/scvgms>

**March 16-17 2002, Hawthorne, CA**  
Northrop Grumman G&MS. 12329  
Crenshaw Blvd., (Gate 16). Sat 10-6 &  
Sun 10-5. Jimmy Lapham at [Lapham@earthlink.net](mailto:Lapham@earthlink.net)

**March 23-24, 2002, La Habra, CA**  
North Orange County G&MS  
La Habra Clubhouse, 200 W.  
Greenwood. Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-4. Don  
& Jane Livezey (909)524-6280 or  
[jdlive27@aol.com](mailto:jdlive27@aol.com)

**April 6-7 2002, Hacienda Heights, CA**  
Puente Hills G&MC, Magic in Rocks,  
Steinmetz Park, 1545 Stimson Avenue.  
10-5 both days. Bob Hess (562)696-  
2270

**April 27-28 2002, Santa Cruz, CA**  
Santa Cruz M&GS, Santa Cruz Civic  
Auditorium, Corner of Center & Church  
Streets, 10-5 both days.

## AFMS Regional Shows 2002

**Rocky Mountain Federation, April  
19-21 2002, Enid, Oklahoma.**

**South Central Federation, February  
8-9 2002, Tyler, Texas.**

**California Federation, July 12-14,  
2002, Placerville, CA.** Treasures of the  
Sierra Nevada, El Dorado County  
M&GS, El Dorado County Fairgrounds,



100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA  
(530)622-3030

Northwest Federation, July 16-21,  
2002, Port Townsend, WA



## CFMS Earth Science Studies- at Zzyzx, March 24-31, 2002

By Cal Clason/Ray Meisenheimer

It is time to be thinking and preparing for the Earth Science Studies on the desert at Soda Springs, known as ZZYZX. The dates are March 24 to 31, 2002. The facilities are an old resort located about 50 miles northeast of Barstow on ZZYZX Road. Take Highway 15 toward Baker. ZZYZX Road is about four miles before you come to Baker.

Facilities are rustic, with dorm style rooms, and rooms with double beds or cots. Restrooms and showers are in a separate building nearby. As this is a desert preserve dedicated to desert studies, no pets are allowed.

### What is Zzyzx?

If you have never heard of the Earth Science Studies, it is a weeklong seminar sponsored by CFMS where rockhounds can make new friends, study lapidary arts, exchange ideas, go on field trips, socialize and have fun.

Workshops include bead stringing, silversmithing, sculpturing (carving), wire wrap, cabochons, and perhaps others. Attendance at this seminar is limited to sixty people. Register early.

RV's ok.

There is ample room for RVs, and you may be more comfortable bringing yours if you have one.

For reservation forms, information, or questions, call: Ruth Bailey (408)248-6195 or Frank Monez (408)578-7067.

## State Geological Symbols

California from Petrograph 10/01,  
newsletter for the M&G Society of  
Castro Valley.

Fossil	Saber Tooth Cat
Gem	Benitoite
Mineral	Gold
Rock	Serpentine
Soil	San Joaquin

## ONE!

As the soot and dirt and ash rained down, we became one color.

As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building, we became one class.

As we lit candles of waiting and hope, we became one generation.

As the firefighters and police officers fought their way into the inferno, we became one gender.

As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength, we became one faith.

As we whispered or shouted words of encouragement, we spoke one language.

As we gave our blood in lines a mile long, we became one body.

As we mourned together the great loss, we became one family.

As we cried tears of grief and loss, we became one soul.

As we retell with pride of the sacrifice of heroes, we become one people.

We Are:

One color

One class

One generation

One gender

One faith

One language

One body

One family

One soul

One people

We are The Power of One.

We are United

We are America

Author unknown, via The Golden Frog  
10/01, Mineral Memos 11/01.

## Caldecott Tunnel was completed 1937

Information from Cal Trans, written by  
Ray Mailhot, Superintendent Tunnels &  
Tubes

### High Level Tunnel

Back in the 1880's it took more than two hours to go by stage coach from Lafayette to Oakland. Going over the top of the hills between Alameda and Contra Costa Counties was the worst part of the journey. There were many accidents, some fatal when horse drawn vehicles got out of control on the steep slopes and crashed into each other. A tunnel had been talked about since the 1860's, but nothing was done about it until the late 1870's, when the Oakland and Contra Costa Tunnel Company built the Kennedy Toll Road and dug out 100 feet of tunnel on the Contra Costa side and 200 feet on the Alameda County side. However, the project was abandoned when the firm ran out of money. In the 1890's another campaign was started to get the tunnel completed with leading citizens contributing part of the funds, along with the two county governments. After years of planning,



fund raising, and digging, the 1,100 foot tunnel was finally opened in 1903. It was 320 feet lower than the top of Summit Road, thereby cutting out the steepest part of the climb over the hills. The tunnel was narrow and dark, so wagon drivers lit up newspapers when entering to signal those at the other end to wait. A picture that was taken about 1918 shows flag decorated cars coming out of the tunnel in a special procession.

### High Level Tunnel to Open Contra Costa County to Commuters

A New Era of suburban residential development started with the opening of the Broadway Low Level Tunnel on December 5, 1937. First there were ceremonies at the Oakland side of the tunnel, which included fireworks and Army planes and pigeons flying overhead. Then the final dedication was held at the Orinda side. With afternoon shadows darkening the hills, a huge crowd listened to speeches by Governor Frank Merriam, Supervisor W. J. Buchanan, and others. During the speeches cars were all lined up at the tunnel entrances. Shortly after a photo was taken the people got into their cars, the governor gave a signal, there was another burst of fireworks, and the traffic started through, bumper to bumper for miles. There were two bores in the tunnel, one for eastbound traffic, the other for west bound. A special joint highway district had been formed in 1928 to accomplish the project, which cost \$11 million. Thomas F. Caldecott, president of the district, was honored later when the tunnel was rededicated bearing his name. A third bore was made in 1964 to cope with increased traffic.

### Canary Cottage Served Travelers On Tunnel Road

Traces of snow were slowly melting on the roofs of cars parked in front of the Canary Cottage Roadhouse, on Tunnel Road, near the east portal of the old high level single bore tunnel that connected Contra Costa with Oakland (until a new low level tunnel was built in 1937). The old tunnel was narrow (just one lane) and the road was steep and winding. The date was January 29, 1922. A brisk snowfall had covered the

cottage roof and the road. It was the first snow in eight years and the heaviest since 1882. The roadhouse had been serving travelers about a dozen years, providing food and gasoline. It had been owned by Basil A. Perry, who sold it in 1918 to Frank Enos and his wife Ruth, who gave it the name Canary Cottage. When the nearby tunnel got equipped with electric lights in 1919, Mr. Enos made a deal with the power company for him to replace burnt out light bulbs in the tunnel in exchange for free electricity for his roadhouse. The Enoses left Canary Cottage later in 1922 to move to Orinda, where they built another small restaurant and gas station which they called the White Swan. Located just past the bridge at the north end of Orinda Village, it was the first structure there other than a barn a little farther down the road, which was later known as Casa Verana. Nobody has recorded why the Enoses named their little restaurants after birds.

### Caldecott Tunnel

Built to replace the old Broadway tunnel (constructed in 1903), Tunnels 1 and 2 were constructed in 1937. Tunnel 3 was built in 1964.

Tunnels 1 and 2 are reinforced concrete-lined arched tunnels. Their length is 3610 feet and have a height of 34 feet. Their vertical clearance for the roadway is only 14 feet 10 inches the remainder is taken up by the ventilation system. They are 15 feet apart at the portals but average 150 feet apart through most of their lengths. Tunnel 3 has a length of 3771 feet, and a height of 18 feet 4 inches, and two 14-foot lanes. Both lanes have emergency walkways on either side. There are three "adits" which are small pedestrians tunnels connecting the main tunnels. Fire control stations have been placed every 125 feet. At 250 foot intervals there are emergency stations, which contain telephones and "Stop Motor" signs in addition to fire extinguishers. Daily usage of the system has been one to four times a day. Additional safety equipment includes a no-fee tow truck that comes with fire extinguisher and first aid gear. This unit can be operated

against traffic if blockage prevents normal entry into the tunnel.

The design of the portals represented that school of 1930's public works architecture which combined Neo-Classical forms with Streamlined Modern detailing sometimes called WPA Modern. Decorative detailing is reinforced concrete except for aluminum hardware, such as lighting standards, sashes and doors.

The Caldecott Tunnel was designated a City of Oakland Landmark in 1980. In 1993 the Art Deco Society of California bestowed a Preservation Award on the Tunnel.

### History of the Caldecott Tunnel

The Caldecott Tunnel is located in a saddle in the Berkeley Hills, which forms a barrier between Oakland and Berkeley in Alameda County and many towns in central Contra Costa County. The Caldecott Tunnel represents one of several generations of attempts to conquer that barrier and open a usable highway transportation link between the two sets of communities.

In the early nineteenth century, highway transportation between the two communities passed further far to the north through Richmond or far to the south. In 1903, Alameda County completed the Broadway Tunnel (hereafter referred to as the "Old Broadway Tunnel" as it is popularly called.) The Old Broadway Tunnel is located at an elevation 160 to 290 feet above the current Caldecott Tunnel. It was connected by steep and winding roads, Tunnel Road on the west and Fish Ranch road on the east. It was 1040 feet long, 17 feet wide and lined in timber. This tunnel still exists but is sealed against public access.

The Old Broadway Tunnel marginally improved access between the two communities but effective commerce, particularly trucking, was hindered severely by steep approaches and the narrow width of the tunnel. Agitation for a more convenient bore began shortly after the Broadway Tunnel was completed.



Formal action to build a new tunnel dates to 1926, when Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and the City of Oakland formed a joint commission to study the feasibility of relocating the tunnel to a lower location. The commission released findings in 1928. The report identified the preferred location of basic design for a new tunnel and connecting roadways. In 1929, the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa organized Joint Highway District No. 13. Specifically for the purpose of building the Caldecott Tunnel of Broadway Low Level Tunnel as it was originally called.

A Joint Highway District was a local governmental entity, first authorized under a California statute of 1917, to facilitate construction of highways that passed through multiple jurisdictions. A district was usually organized to construct a single project and disbanded when the project was completed. For example, Highway 1 between San Francisco and Santa Cruz was built in the 1930's and 1940's by Joint Highway District No. 9. The State of California cooperated with such districts in two respects. First, state gasoline tax money often supplemented local money which derived from property tax-based bonds. Second, the state generally assumed responsibility for maintenance of the improvement upon completion.

Joint Highway District No. 13 was organized on September 15, 1929 to construct the Caldecott tunnel, the Posey tunnel from Oakland to Alameda, and the tunnel on Yerba Buena for the Bay Bridge.

## Amber

*Via Gems & Precious Stones by Curzio Cipriani & Alessandro Borelli, via Mineral Memos (Antioch Club)*

Hardness 2.5

Crystal Structure Non-crystalline

The name has come down, probably through French, from the Arabic ANBAR. The Romans called it succinum, as it was rightly believed to

be from tree sap. Its use as an ornamental material dates from Neolithic times. It was brought to the foothills of the Alps from the Baltic coast. The distances that had to be covered to obtain it, enormous for those days give an idea of its importance.

It is typically yellow to honey-colored, or yellow brown to brown, with good transparency, revealing glimpses of opaque brown to black frustules on the inside, almost disc-shaped surfaces with types of radial veins and sometimes animal remains, especially of arthropods (mainly insects, arachnids and miriapods). Small gnats, wasps and ants are sometimes clearly recognizable, because whole and perfectly preserved in every detail. Some amber, however, is quite "cloudy"-from translucent to semi-opaque-and lemon yellow to orange yellow or brown in color.

Amber is singly refractive, with an index of about 1.54, and has a very low density of around 1.06-1.08 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, so that it floats in a concentrated solution of kitchen salt. It is reasonably tenacious and workable, even through it splinters when cut, showing signs of brittleness. It softens and starts to decompose at 150 degrees and melts at about 250 degrees C. On contact with the usual red-hot piece of wire, it gives off an aromatic smell as it decomposes, almost like the resin of present day pine trees.

## About Amber

*By Roman Poet Marcus Martial, 4-102 A.D.*

A drop of Amber  
From a weeping plant  
Fell unexpected,  
And embalmed an ant.  
The little insect  
We so much condemn  
Is, from a worthless ant  
Became a gem.



## Gold in the Great Basin

*This is the first in series of articles condensed and adapted from "Geology of the Great Basin" by Bill Fiero, University of Nevada Press, 1986, by Thurma Livingston, Editor, Conglomerate, newsletter for the Reno M&G Society.*

The Nevada Gold Province includes the entire Great Basin Region. Within it are some of the largest gold and silver deposits on earth. The first deposits discovered were relatively shallow veins, usually of Tertiary age, with some incredibly rich in gold or silver. Many modern Great Basin gold mines contain ore that shows no color. The gold prospector of a hundred years ago would be amazed at the gold mines found in Nevada since the 1950's. These mines are economically extracting gold that is colloidal in size and that cannot be seen by the unaided eye or even with a high-powered microscope. How many old-timers must have trod over some of Nevada's largest gold mines without the slightest suspicion of the riches that lay beneath their feet? How many of us today have walked over the gold mines of tomorrow?

The Carlin mine, in the Lynn district of Eureka County, about twenty miles northeast of the town of Carlin, Nevada, is a large open pit operation with large gold reserves. A more recent discovery, the Jerritt Canyon deposit of northern Elko County, may eventually exceed Carlin in production. The first discovery of gold in the Lynn district



was in 1907, but the disseminated gold ore of Carlin wasn't discovered until 1962.

## The Golden Era of the San Gabriels

*By Wally Ford, The Agatizer 10/99, via CFMS Newsletter 10/01*

It is well known that the gold discovery at Sutter's Mill on the American River is what sparked the rush of 1849. However, it is little known that in 1842, Don Juan found gold in Placerita Canyon. Within days, the word spread throughout southern California and into northern Mexico. Answering the siren's call, Mexican miners from Sonora, Mexico rushed north to the various rivers in the San Gabriel Mountains where the virgin placer deposits lay in waiting. Soledad, Pacoima, San Gabriel, and Lytle Creek canyons were heavily exploited.

Even before this, it has been said that some of the San Fernando and Santa Barbara mission neophytes were "employed" to pan the gravel near Newhall in 1842. By the 1860's, the river gravel was facing depletion, encouraging the search for out cropping quartz gold veins. The Mexican miners working in Soledad Canyon were the first to exploit such new occurrences. The ore was crushed by a primitive mill called an arrastre to the consistency of sand and taken to the river and panned. Gold ran between \$30 and \$40.

Don Manuel Ravenna, a Los Angeles businessman, organized a copper mining company in 1862. The copper deposit had been located on the slope of Parker Mountain near Acton. Soon, a small cluster of shacks, a livery stable, and blacksmith shop became Soledad city. The operation was short-lived due to a drop in copper prices. The "town" was revived, taking on a new name, Ravenna, and becoming a gold-mining center in 1864.

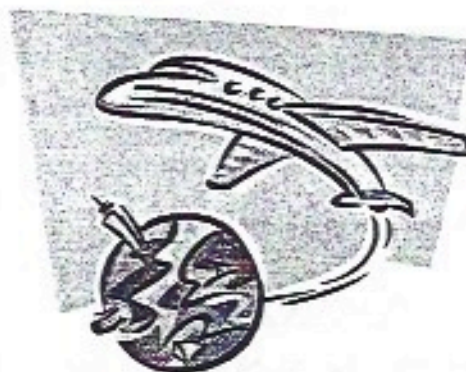
By the 1870's, lode mining had shifted up the Santa Clara River to the vicinity of what is now Acton. This, the Cedar mining district, became the most

productive gold producer in the San Gabriel Mountains. The ore occurred in fractured granite, gabbro, and schist. The gold in quartz was free milling with pyrite an accessory mineral. There were extensive underground workings, 1,000-foot inclined shafts, tunnels, and adits.

Of the dozen or so mines, the Buena Esperanza and Red Rover produced \$1.5 million. The High Grade and Puritan earned \$550,000, as many as 10 stamp mills were in operation.

Large-scale commercial hydraulic mining of the river gravel was feasible in the San Gabriel and Lytle Creek canyons. This process requires large volumes of water. Monitor or large nozzles played a powerful stream against the gravel banks, washing the material into sluices. Several million dollars of fine gold was recovered.

While visiting the Red Rover mine, a student in my geology class picked up a grapefruit s-sized rock on the waste dump that had a thin gold seam running through it! Near the parked car, I found a raisin-sized nugget!



## To Russia For Jade:

This is the last of three installments.

*By Richard Hughes and Nikolai Kouznetsov from the November 2001 SMS Matrix, Sacramento CA.*

### "Truckin"

Arriving at the mining camp, we were greeted by Misha's brother and father and were pleasantly surprised at the

comfortable Siberian accommodations, complete with banya. The mine employs some twenty people and the climate allows mining over seven months per year. To get to the mines, we hopped in a truck and took off on one of those incredibly steep, muddy tracks that seem to be found only on the way to a jade mine. We could have walked, but I guess when you are drinking a liter of vodka a day, walking is not really an option.

There is something about a jade mine that seems to bring out the worst in roads. An intense five-minute drive later, we arrived at the mine. Amidst a hillside open cut stood what is probably the single biggest jadeite boulder I have ever laid eyes on. Workers crawled across its surface like ants, sticking their jackhammer stingers in to pry away small bits, which were loaded onto waiting trucks. As I marveled at the scene, Misha was beaming. "What do you think?" he asked. "It's incredible," I gushed. "Yes," Misha answered, laughing that manic laugh: "Every dog gets his day."

### Kidnapped

The next day it was back down to Abakan, where we proceeded to consume copious quantities of vodka as Misha regaled us with stories of jade and life in Siberia. Early the next morning, we rushed to the airport, only to find that the Air Abakan flight was full.

After missing our plane, I expected a couple restful days in Abakan, but Misha had other plans. The previous night's vodka fest had left each of us with little sleep and far fewer brain cells, but that did nothing to stop our dynamo guide, Misha. We paid a visit to a gold miner in a nearby town, and then it was off to a dacha in the countryside. Two-and-a-half hours drive later, I was beginning to understand how Patty Hearst must have felt. Eventually, we arrived at a lake. I was in miserable condition, with too little sleep and too many miles on my body, thinking to myself, "Why am I here?"



I really am too old for this jade mines stuff.

The next day, recovering, I climbed a mountain above the lake. While dark clouds swirling above my head and a hawk traced lazy circles off the cliff at my feet, the answer appeared. Looking out upon the hills, the sheer vastness of the land finally beats open the doors to my consciousness. These hills and steppes stretched on unbroken for thousands of miles in every direction, the largest wilderness left on the planet. It had a calming effect. Even as the rains forced me down off the mountaintop, the sun was shining in my mind and heart.

## In Dreams

Down below, we had a final meal before departing for Abakan and I had an opportunity to speak with Misha about his dream. He was born in Khakassia and has a deep love of his homeland and its peoples. His family was once rich and powerful, but when a brother married an American student in Moscow and immigrated to the USA, they were ostracized from Soviet society. Misha went through a number of different businesses, everything from truck driver to vodka maker before being told one day of the jade that had been found in his homeland. He was immediately smitten, deciding then and there to make it his life's work.

Misha's decision seemed ever more right when his wife read to him an encyclopedia entry on jade, which state that, next to colored diamonds, jade was the most precious of all stones. And so he set out to learn all he could about the subject, visiting Hong Kong, studying up on this gem that he hoped would become his life's work. "I have looked at all the jade deposits in Russia and Kazakhstan," Misha told me. "The Polar deposits have fine material, but the conditions are too severe, while the quality of material from Kazakhstan is not good enough. But here in Khakassia, we have the perfect combination—an accessible deposit with good material. I know it is not as good as the best from Burma, but it is quite

nice and I am positive that with hard work, we can be successful."

As we packed our bags to leave, one building next to the lake caught my eye. It sported a window, but were the glass should be, the framed was filled with bricks. Above, clouds clashed in the sky. This seemed to symbolize all that is Russia today. Looking outward, but after 80 years of communism, somehow afraid of what she might find. Mother Russia moving, like the clouds, simultaneously in two opposite directions.

We hit the road as the sun's final glow began to fade. A more beautiful sunset I have never seen. Stopping the car, Misha and I look each other in the eye, smiling, then take in the vast Siberian expanse that lies before us. He tells me: "Khakassia—this is a big, big country. We are small." Just then, a rainbow shoots down through the clouds. As we embrace I tell him, "Now I understand why you brought me here." I think to myself that I've discovered that lost treasure of Ghengis Khan. "Yes," he nods knowingly. "Every dog gets his day. Every dog gets his fantastic day."

## What Is Jade?

Over 2500 years ago, Gautama Buddha recognized that much of life involves pain and suffering. So few of us here on Earth have been provided with a glimpse of heaven. Instead, we mostly dwell in hell. But for the Chinese, there is a terrestrial bridge between heaven and hell—jade.

While stones such as diamond are a relatively recent entry into Chinese culture, jade has a history stretching back thousands of years. In ancient China, jade was already used for making tools, weapons and ornaments. Jade's antiquity contributes an aura of eternity to this gem. Confucius, who wrote about its brilliance and beauty, praised jade as a symbol of righteousness and knowledge.

Part of the Chinese' love of jade is its beauty and toughness. But they also ascribe mystical powers to the stone. A circular piece of jade, such as a bangle,

is said to possess a protective function. If the wearer is caught in an accident, the jade will break, leaving its owner unharmed. Even more popular is the belief that it is possible to predict the stages of one's life, depending on whether a jade becomes more brilliant and transparent—meaning enjoying good times and good fortune—or whether it becomes dull—meaning there is bad luck ahead.

Just how does one classify a piece of heaven? To the Chinese jade was defined by its "virtues," namely a compact, fine texture, tremendous toughness and high hardness, smooth and glossy luster, along with high translucency and the ability to take a high polish. But the Occidental psyche, with its propensity to pigeonhole, does not sit well with such apparent indifference to scientific definition. Thus it was left for the intruders from the West to finally cross all the t's and dot the i's of this most arcane of gem substances.

In 1863, French mineralogist Alcxis Damour analyzed bright green jades from Burma. Finding them different from ordinary Chinese jade (amphibole jade, or nephrite), he named the "new" jade, jadeite. Today, gemologists apply the term jade only to amphibole jade (essentially a nephrite rock) and pyroxene jade (essentially a jadeite rock). Nephrite is a tough fibrous subspecies of the actinolite-tremolite series, whereas jadeite is a more granular, compact species of the sodium pyroxene mineral group. Depending upon impurities, the color of jadeite jade encompasses variations of white, through red- and orange-brown, light purple to violet ("lavender"), bluish gray and black, to an extensive range of greens. The "Imperial" (chrome) green, which is not found in nephrite, is the most highly valued.

A love of jade was not limited to the Chinese. Wherever the stone was found, it was held in great esteem, from the nephrite of New Zealand's Maoris, to the jadeite of Mesoamerica. Indeed, as Cortez cut his swath through the Aztec empire, pillaging gold, silver and emeralds, Montezuma is said to have



remarked to his followers: "Thank god they don't know about the jade." Gold, silver and precious stones might capture interest in the rest of the world, but in cultures familiar with jade, they were simply also-rans. In Chinese athletic competitions, ivory was given for third place and gold for second. Jade was reserved solely for the winners, including high officials in the Imperial court.

Within jade's verdant interior, the Chinese, Maoris and Aztecs saw all that is good with humanity—virtue, purity justice, humanity, and more. As the Chinese saying goes: "Gold has a price—but jade is priceless." And today, many are beginning to wake up to this truth. As we enter the new millennium, jade is the world's most precious stone, fetching price higher than anything except the rarest colored diamonds. Indeed, five of the ten most expensive jewelry lots sold worldwide by Christie's in 1999 were jade, including three of the top five.

## Acknowledgements

A journey such as this cannot be completed without the help of many people. First and foremost, William Larson, of Pala International who gave me the time away from work to follow my dream. And my Russian buddy, Nickolai Kouznetsov, who allowed me to stumble in and out of trouble, but was always there with a steady hand when needed. Our host in the Polar Urals, Sergei Mikhcev took the time to show us his dream. Dzhano Akhvlediani from Georgia was a fine traveling companion, always reminding us when our vodka glasses were empty. Sasha Agafonov and the rest of the gang at Stoneflower in Moscow. And finally, Misha Khronlenko and his brother, Sergei, and father, Yakov Borisovich, who so willingly opened up their Khakassian home and homeland to us.



## Agate Hunters Point Way to an Impact Crater

By Dr. Bill Cordua, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, *Leaverite News, Breccia*.

Recognition that some agates can form in rocks produced from the impact of an asteroid on the earth has lead Finnish geologists to the site of a previously unrecognized impact crater. This is one example of how observations made by rock hounds can lead to a major scientific discovery.

Finland is a bit like Minnesota and Wisconsin in that much of it is covered by glacial sediments, with little bedrock exposed. In the 1960's rock hounds began finding agates in the gravel pits north of Helsinki. These were attractive banded nodules up to 2 inches across. Their color bands ranged from white to red to brown to reddish orange.

Chlorite and various zeolites minerals, particularly mordenite were associated. Unlike Minnesota and Wisconsin, the bedrock of Finland was not volcanic, consisting mostly of schist, gneiss and granite which do not bear agates. The bedrock source of these agates was unknown, and constituted a major mystery.

A Finnish geologist, H. Papunen, noted that the agates were found with chunks of other rocks that were typical of those found in craters formed by asteroid impact with the earth. Rocks melted by such a powerful event would form gas bubbles just like those in conventionally formed lava flows.

Gas bubbles filled with agate solution. These gas bubbles could then easily be filled later on by agate-forming solutions. The agates, being so hard and chemically resistant were much more likely to survive weathering and erosion than the typical rocks formed by such impact. Consequently the agates would be widely disbursed by the glacier that scrapped through the older crater. Papunen (1969) began plotting the location of the pits in which rock hounds were finding agates. Those pits formed a distinct trail leading north. Using the known direction of glacial movement in the at area, he was able to trace the agates back to what he thought was the buried site of the crater. Drilling and geophysical work verified that there was in fact a buried crater. This crater came to be called the Lake Saaksjarvi crater, and turned out to be 5 kilometers across. None of it outcropped at the surface.

A recent study by Karla Kinnunene and Krisitan Lindqvist (1998) of the Finnish Geological Survey investigated whether these agates were different from agates formed in other environments. They found that the impact agates were similar in all measured physical, chemical and structural aspects to those agates formed in sedimentary or volcanic environments.

What it means and doesn't mean. Consequently, the presence of agates in an area such as ours, where agates from other sources are widely distributed in the glacial drift will not be useful in identifying the location of buried asteroid impact sites. In other areas, where agates aren't ordinarily found in the bedrock, agates may form a useful "path-finder" mineral pointing the way to the discovery of more impact structures.

References: Kinnunen, K and Lindqvist, K., 1998, "Agate as an indicator of impact structures: an example from Saaksjarvi, Finland", *Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences*, vol. 33, #1, p. 7-12.

Papunen, H., 1969, Possible impact metamorphic textures in the cratics of the Lake Saaksjarvi area, Finland, *Bull. Geol. Soc. Finland*, vol. 41, p. 151-155.





## Fortune Cookie

If the shoe fits, it's probably your size.



## CCM&GS Board Meeting 11/05/01

*Respectfully submitted Louise Gilley, Secretary*

President **Joe Yarbrough** called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. In attendance were **Sam Woolsey, Mary Ann King, Bob Pevahouse, Dick Pankey, Ann & Matt Matthews, Mary & Jim Bufton, Ophelia & Marlow Hicks, Doug Rue, Connie Klein, and Glen Hubbard.**

**Sam Woolsey** said attendance was down 10% at the show. We had approximately 865 adults. "Rock and Gem" donated copies of their magazine (suggested by **Ophelia Hicks**) which were given out at **Jim Bufton's** membership table, very effective for discussions. Demonstrators were great! Quality of Grab Bags was excellent! **Mary Hicks** was very patient and gave great explanations for the kids at the stupendous fluorescent display! **Mary Crenshaw's** kids table was a huge success. The Silent Auction was

popular and profitable! **Jim Bufton** presented applications for new membership. Voted in as new members are: **Rosanne Hannon, Alek De Wilde, Ron & Nancy Morris; Donald & Sheila Palotta, and Nora; Eric Sonnenthal & Nate; Mary Jane Walker; Eric & Rosemary West and Anthony and Molly; Horace Young; Doug Malby and Kevin.** Welcome! We now have 146 adults and 13 Junior members.

Motion made and approved to accept speakers who have items for sale. After the meeting is adjourned, sales may begin.

**Glenn Hubbard** gave the property report. **Mary Bufton** gave publicity report. **Doug Rue** gave display report. **Connie Klein** gave treasurer's report. **Ann Matthews** gave program report, April 02 program should be wonderful.

**Bob Pevahouse** will attend the Federation meeting Saturday and give our contribution to the scholarship fund raised at our auction of \$848.00. **Joe Yarbrough and Bob Pevahouse** will be helping Yuba City's Gem Club in December and will miss our general meeting.

Motion approved to keep the club's trailer at **Connie Klein's** home same payment as we currently have, with the luxury of more room and flexibility.

**Dick Pankey** gave education report.

We all agreed we appreciated all the help making it a wonderful show and the help at tear down. We also need younger people to help with the tear down.



## CCG&MS General Meeting, 11/09/01

*Respectfully submitted by Louise Gilley, Secretary*

President **Joe Yarbrough** called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was followed by the hospitality report given by **Bev Martin.** **Jeanette Travers,** won the Chinese Writing Rock guest door prize. **Scott Young** won the member door prize. Minerals donated by **Fraziers.**

**Hazel Woolsey** announced up coming field trips.

**Jim Bufton** announced our new members: **Rosanne Hannan, Alek De Wilde, Ron and Nancy Morris, Donald and Sheila Palotta and Nora Palotta, Eric Sonnenthal with Nate Sonnenthal, Mary Jane Walker, Eric and Rosemary West, with Anthony and Molly, Horace Young, Doug Malby, with Kevin.** Welcome All!!

**Jim Bufton** also has available for the asking a coupon for reduced subscription price on the magazine "Rock & Gem."

**Glen Hubbard** presented Diablo Dan mugs as a thank you to **Marlow Hicks, Joe Yarbrough, Charlie Bon, Mary Hicks, Jim High, Tom Umholtz, Dick Pankey, Connie Klein, Hazel Woolsey,** also for about 8000 hours each. **Sam Woolsey and George Matthews** all for contributing their talents and time to trailer and show preparations.

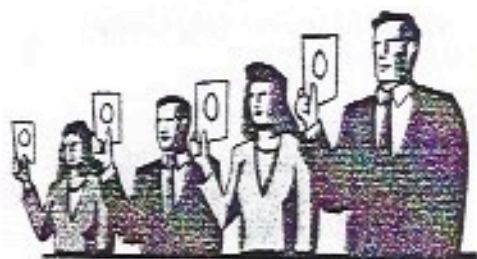
Librarian **Marlow Hicks** brought videos of Steps in Lapidary, Faceting, Wire Wrapping, Soapstone Carving and assorted books to check out.

**Doug Rue** Display Chair had 2 pro cabs and one rutilated quartz faceted stone that were gorgeous, **Barrie Bieler and Jim Bufton** the jewelers.

**Sam Woolsey** Show Chairman thanked everyone for our great Show! Also stated the average age of 72-75 years



and wants to encourage some younger people to help with the set up and tear down of the show.



This is election night, Joe Yarbrough presented the slate of candidates by the nominating committee;

**Joe Yarbrough for President**

**Ann Matthews for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Programs**

**Hazel Woolsey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and Field Trips**

**Sharon Newhauser for Secretary**

**Connie Klein for Treasurer**

**Bob Pevahouse for Federation Director**

They were unanimously elected.

Ann Matthews announced our speaker Dennis Shelley, a well-known jeweler from Fairfield. The program he gave was to teach us how to buy a gemstone by using a method of selecting them. He came up with **KOSCO**.

**Knowledge** which comes from doing research using the internet, books, and library.

**Overlook** which comes from getting the big picture.

**Scrutiny and the Clarity.** This seems to give people the most problem. He recommends using a 10x loop to look at the stone you may be purchasing.

**Official**, referring to a rating system using Gemological Institute of America (GIA) or a European system EGL.

He recommends going to gem shows, using the internet (search engines such as Google). Always get a receipt from the store or dealer that states the cut, size, color, stock number, and price of any fine piece you purchase.

Books he recommends are "Gemstones of the World," "Diamond Grading 1, 2, 3," "The Diamond Ring Buyer," and the best "Photo Masters for Diamond Grading," by Gary A. Roskin, G.G., F.G.A.

Some diamonds fluoresce.

The Colombian Connection has become very powerful in California, particularly in the L.A. area. The group is an organization of thieves who are primarily former Central American police make up this gang. In the last two years they are responsible for approximately 2000 robberies, averaging \$200,000 each crime. They have taken lives as well as jewels.

Nan-Den Enterprises is located at 3083 Travis Blvd., Fairfield, CA 94533. 707-435-1900, Mr. & Mrs. Shelley specialize in sapphires but are a full service jewelry store.

Mr. Shelley provided us with a lot of good information and he is an energized and personable speaker. The talk was over before we knew the time had passed.

Joe announced the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society Museum, located at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, has free admission 12/29/01. The museum specializes in the history of mining in the East Bay.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
Submit articles and news for the January Diablo Diggins by December 18<sup>th</sup>.





## Board and Committee Members 2001

President **Joe Yarbrough**, 682-3894

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of Programs **Ann Matthews** 229-0836

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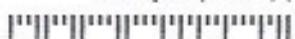
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Official Bulletin & Meeting Notice

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