

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 18 No. 7

September 1999

Prez's Message

by Don Ogden

The summer break is over and fall is just around the corner. At our September meeting, we need to select a Nominating Committee, and a Committee to select a site for the Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

We also need to select a Chairman for the All American Club award.

Our field trip this month will be for one day in the Calico Mountains. See the flyer for details

May Meeting

Date: September 14

Time: 7:30 PM.

Place: La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd

Program: Come to our elementary school Geology Class

Program

by Susan Grafton

Don't miss the September 14 meeting! Our speaker, will be Virginia Grafton. The program will on Geology.

Refreshments

by Oscar Veloz

Irene Veloz and Jane Livezey are on the refreshment list to bring goodies for our 14 September meeting.

Thanks to Linda Parker and Mary Maneth for the delicious refreshments we had at our June meeting.

NOC Club Activities

Cab Classes at Walt Messemer's; 7-10 p.m. every Wednesday Evening.

Board Meeting — September 21, 6:30 p.m. (at the La Habra Community Center - (Boneta Room)

Regular Meeting — September 14, 7:30 p.m.

Field Trip — September 25 - Volunteer Project at Mule & Odessa Canyons in the Calico Mountains.

Deadline for NOC News — September 21

Members in the News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have a wonderful day all of you who were born in July, August, and September.

Chuck Lortz - July 18

Walt Messemer - July 19

Norberto Elicker - July 29

Walt Abramson - July 31

Linda Parker - August 3

Sandy Mogan - August 27

Angie Harwood - September 3

Mike Maneth - September 4

Irene Veloz - September 6

Don Ogden - September 13

Loretta Ogden - September 16

Dolores Maggs - September 23

Don Warthen - September 25

Your gemstone is Ruby (July), Sardonyx (August), and Sapphire (September).

Your flower is Larkspur or Water Lily (July), Poppy or Gladiolus (August), and Aster or Morning Glory (September).

Shows and Events
via CFMS Web Page

September 25-26 **Downey, CA**
Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Woman's Club of Downey
9813 Paramount Blvd.
Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4
Manfred Dexling (562) 425-0192

September 29 - October 3 , **Joshua Tree, CA**
Sportsmans Club of Joshua Tree
Sportsmans Hall
6225 Sunburst Street
Hours: Wed 9-5 Sun 9-3
Gary Palmer (760) 366-2990

October 9-10, **Lancaster, CA**
Valley Gems
9050 1/2 West Ave. J
Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4
Connie Wilhelm (661) 942-1570

October 9-10, **Trona, CA**
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
13337 Main St.
Hours: Sat. 8-5 Sun. 8-4
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356

October 10-16 **Earth Science Week (ESW) '99**
The CFMS voted to become a sponsor of ESW.
Our club to provide displays at libraries etc.
Julia A. Jackson (703) 379-2480
e-mail jaj@agiweb.org
web site <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>

In Memory of Harriette Breitman
By Don and Loretta Ogden

Harriette my friend, my teacher, confidante, and advisor passed from this world Friday August 20, 1999. She leaves 3 loving daughters and 8 grandchildren, one sister, 3 sons in law, and a multitude of friends.

Harriette began this career in 1973 by graduating from the GIA. As a graduate gemologist, she designed jewelry in gold, sterling and fine silver, precious gems, and specialized in one-of-a-kind items. She carved and sculptured for nine years

and demonstrated regularly at many rock and gem shows in Southern California. She lectured on carving and sculpture techniques and taught the fundamentals of gem carving at one-day workshops and in private hands on lessons.

Anyone who ever had the opportunity to take Harriette's class learned much more than technique. Harriette had the uncanny ability of transferring her love of carving and beauty to you. In her eyes, all the world was a masterpiece.

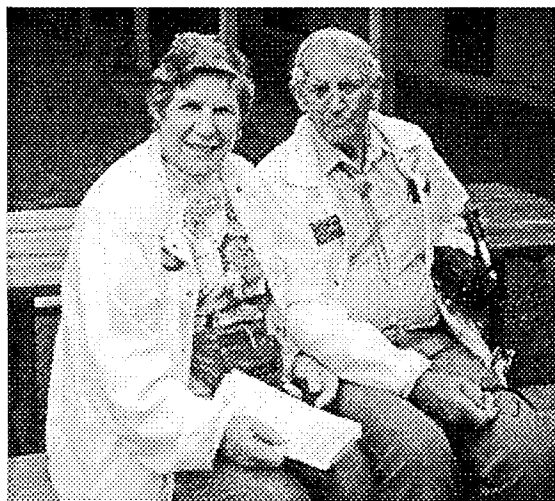
I will always picture Harriette with her arms open embracing all of life's offerings with enthusiasm and joy. She will be missed.

In Memory of Floyd (Bob) Berg
By Isabella Burns

Floyd (Bob) Berg, an enthusiastic supporter of many rockhound activities, succumbed August 21, 1999. Floyd is remembered for his many years of enjoying this fantastic recreation and its many phases. He loved field trips, cut and polishing stones, making spheres, facteting, etc.

He was a member of the Whittier GMS for forty years, the North Orange County GMS for twenty years, the Lake Elsinore Club for ten years and the Valley Prospectors for five years. He and his wife, Muriel (Bev), raised three children and taught them to enjoy the desert and the fun field trips. Bob has served on many CFMS and AFMS Show Committees - 1981, 1988, 1990, 1996, and 2000. He will be greatly missed for his seeking help with "Friends, Fellow Countrymen, Let's rise to the occasion".....

Bill Burns, a great friend.



Generous Donation

By Loretta Ogden

We are very grateful to the heirs of Albert Jenson for donating a twenty-four inch saw to NOC. We are anxious to get it ready to use but have hit one little snag. Does anyone out there have room to keep it at their house? It is a large piece. If you think you can help call Mike Maneth or Don Ogden.

Volunteers Wanted National Public Lands Day

By Izzie Burns

Each year National Public Lands Day is the last Saturday in September. The day is set aside to improve our public lands for our use. This year the BLM Volunteer Program in Barstow have chosen to clean up Odessa and Mule Canyon. They are seeking 150 volunteers to participate in this project.

Mule and Odessa Canyon is a scenic historic mining area. We take a trip there from Zzyzx each year to collect rare micro fossils; many clubs go there to collect silver onyx, agate, petrified palm wood, etc. I think we should help this group.

Be a Volunteer. **September 25, 1999, 7:00 am meet at Mule Canyon Staging Area.** Volunteer crews will work from 7:30 to 12:30, when a barbecue lunch will be served. The first 100 volunteers on site will receive a T-shirt and free pass to the nearby Rock-a Hoola water park good for the afternoon. Bring hat, sunscreen, gloves, work boots, water, swimsuit & towel. Pickup trucks and trailers for hauling trash will be needed. Off-road vehicles that are licensed or have a current green sticker and spark arrestors could be used.

This is our September field trip. See map for directions to Mule Canyon staging area.

For those who want to go as an NOC group, see Virginia Grafton at the September meeting.

General Meeting - June 8, 1999

By Loretta Ogden

Meeting – The meeting was called to order by President Don Ogden at 7:35 p.m.

Flag Salute – Oscar Veloz led the flag salute.

Birthdays – There were no birthday cards presented.

Program – The program was on gem limonite (Fire Agate) by David Burton. He also told about being followed from the Costa Mesa show and the suspects being arrested by the police.

Refreshments – Linda Parker and Mary Maneth provided the refreshments.

Minutes of Last Meeting. – Minutes of last meeting that appeared in the newsletter were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Burns gave the report.

Hospitality Report – Irene gave the report. There were 28 members and 2 guest (John Monoco and Judy Semless) present at the meeting.

Drawings – Judy Semless won the main prize.

Education Report - Ginny Grafton gave the education report.

Federation Report – Izzie Burns report was in the June newsletter.

Field Trip Report – The next field trip will be announced after the summer break in September.

Refreshment Assignment – Irene Veloz and Jane Livezey will bring refreshments to the June 8 meeting.

Old Business:

On recommendation by the board, the membership voted to pay for new wheels for our cabbng machines, and saw blades for our saws.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:37 p.m.

Board Meeting - September 21, 1999

Meeting – There will be a board meeting at the La Habra Community Center on September 21 at 6:30 p.m.

CFMS INSURANCE UPDATE

by Bob Stultz, CFMS 2nd Vice President

At the Executive Committee meeting held in Turlock, the Executive Board appointed Bob Stultz, CFMS 2nd Vice President, to gather information from several interested insurance companies who wished to make a bid for the Federation's insurance business and present it to the Board. The Board will then examine these policies and present their decision to the Directors, when ready.

We are negotiating with several insurance companies at this time and two major companies have indicated that they are very much interested in writing a policy for us. We have asked for coverage to include all activities, in the name of the Federation and all of its clubs. These activities would include: Monthly Meetings, Workshops, Shows, Educational Trips to Museums and other such locations, Field Trips for collecting material, and Socials such as Picnics, Pot Lucks, Christmas Parties, etc.

One company has already notified Pat McDaniels, the agent who spoke briefly at the Directors' Meeting in Turlock, that they have a policy almost ready to be quoted. **This policy would not involve any additional cost to the individual clubs of the Federation for all of their activities, including Field Trips.**

The other type of insurance coverage that came up in Turlock was called *Errors and Omissions* for Officers and Directors. This would involve an additional cost, over and above the regular premium, and we are discussing the need for this with our lawyer.

We hope this answers the questions that have been submitted to President Ken Kruschke since Turlock. We will not rush into making quick decisions that will only give a "band aid" solution to this problem, and we will not quote any specific figures on policies in the Newsletter until the Executive Board and the CFMS lawyer can examine them. Therefore, there will not be another article on the insurance problem printed in the CFMS Newsletter until we have some definite information to give you.

Please be patient and give your officers a chance to do their job.

Federation Report

by Izzie Burns, Director

The Federation Show and Convention at Turlock was fun to attend. We camped on the Fairgrounds and all of the activities were there. Insurance was the big topic discussed at the Meeting. Bob Stultz has been appointed to work on a good insurance program for CFMS. Isabella attended an AFMS Meeting on Insurance and was very impressed with the idea of having a joint insurance for all Federations thus saving some money. An article by Bob will be included in this bulletin. Next years CFMS Show will be at the Riverside Convention Center August 4, 5, & 6. Don Ogden had his computer at a Web site booth and was it popular. Don & Loretta entertained the group every night with a movie and even had free popcorn. NOC was well represented with the Liveseys, Graftons, Ogdens, Burns, and Bergs.

We, also, attended the AFMS Show and Convention in Nashville. As First Vice President, one of Bill's duties was to help with the Junior Committee. As the committee Chair, Kathy and Bob Miller, could not attend, he spent much time in the Junior Booth. I was elected President Elect and will take office on November 1, 1999 and will be installed as President in Moab, Utah in October of 2000. I attended a very interesting meeting on Insurance where they discussed having the same company for all Federations which could save us some money. Another meeting was for directors to the regional meetings and was most informative. Again NOC was well represented. Don and Loretta and Joan and Bob Henry and the Burnses. Don was a real source of help to other Web Masters and Joan had some success in getting more state rocks.

I have to say a word or so about ALAA. They had a rousing meeting at Nashville. Our collecting areas are becoming less available. First there was the struggle for us to be able to continue to collect invertebrate fossils. There are 20 bills before the Senate and 15 bills before the House that

can affect our hobby. With the Congress adjourning for the August recess we have a chance to get some input to them on these bills. Public use of Public lands is being attacked. According to Audrey Hudson in the Washington Times, there are bills that could “ban most public use of 5 million acres in six states,” For more information on this read the article in this bulletin by Jon Spunaugle.

Urgent!... Support the ALAA, [Renew your membership now!](#)

The “Bell Tolling”?

An editorial

by Jon Spunaugle, President, ALAA

After reading a recent article by reporter Audrey Hudson in The Washington Times a major newspaper in Washington DC, we are wondering if the “Bell is starting to Toll on the end of public use of public lands”. The article by Ms. Hudson documents the current administration plans to “ban most public use of 5 million acres in six states”. The suggested purpose is to “placate” the environmental movement. We suspect it is likely an effort to get their financial support for the up-coming elections. Also we believe it may be a desire of the President to add “land preservation” to the “accomplishments” of his administration.

Several important, legislators and administration officials are quoted in the article. Secretary of Interior Babbitt is stated to have asked the President to use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to add 505,350 acres in the State of Arizona as a National Monument. We believe this -will likely be the Shivwits Plateau area near the Grand Canyon. This would be the second such National Monument designation for this President. Most Presidents don't designate any National Monuments. This Administration's first designation was the 1.8 million-acre Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in the State of Utah in 1996. One Senator was quoted as saying “Our general concern and frustration is what the administration did in Southern Utah they could do anywhere else in the country, and that they were unwilling to work with Congress -especially as we head into a presiden-

tial cycle ... This has become a political tool and not a means to protect unique environmental assets”.

In addition, the administration is likely to declare **2.6 million acres** in the State of **Utah** as a Wilderness Study area (see FEDERAL REGISTER, March 18, 1999). This designation can be made under FIRMA (Federal Land Policy Management Act) without Congressional approval. The lands so designated would remain as defacto wilderness until Congress acts to either add them to the country's Wilderness System or release them for use by citizens. A Bill in this Congress seeks to address the issue of how long can a wilderness study area remain “a study area”. (See HR-1258 and HR-1500).

Also an effort is being made to pass the **1.5 million-acre** Coastal Plain Wilderness Designation in the **Alaska** Arctic National Wildlife Refuge [ANWR] (see House Resolution HR-1239 and Senate Bill S-867 in the last newsletter). This action would end an effort to develop the oil located under only 2,000 acres of the total 20 million acres of the entire refuge. The ANWR total area is about the size of the State of South Carolina. It seems almost ludicrous that there would be such opposition to development of only 2,000 acres, even in the fragile arctic. The North Slope/Prudhoe Bay oil development proved that the development of the oil reserves did not have the large and dire effects on the arctic environment predicted by some (barring the actions of a drunk tanker captain which could have happened anywhere in the world).

What would be even more concerning to the ALAA, and our reason for following this particular wilderness proposal, is that if the U.S. Senate should pass the Bill S-867 it would be over the objection, and without the support, of the two Senators from Alaska, the Honorable Ted Stevens and Frank H. Murkowski. In the past, Congress has been unwilling to pass wilderness legislation without full support of the state's two Senators. To pass this legislation [S-867] would set a dangerous precedent for future Wilderness designations where the majority of the population of the State is not in favor of the designation. The State of Alaska and its people are very much in favor

and in need of the development of the ANWR oil resources, and against the Wilderness Bill S-867. Also, such a precedent would give outrageous bills like IEZ-488 a chance of passage. HR-488 is a Bill sponsored by Eastern legislators, and impacts 5 western states with over **19 million acres** of new wilderness. Passage of wilderness bills sponsored by legislators whose constituents are not directly impacted by the loss of public lands to all but “wilderness recreation”, seems inconsiderate at best. We would ask all citizens to remember a certain “Tea Party” in Boston Harbor. Something about a lack of representation and imposing someone’s will on others. We would suggest the approval of wilderness in a State might best be done as a State ballot issue. Let the voters of that State approve or disapprove. If they don’t want it, don’t force it on them. Something like “**Don’t Tread on Me**”.

The article also mentions that the upper reaches of the Missouri River in the State of **Montana**; (which we believe is the Yellowstone River, Madison River, and the Missouri River) are subjects of a National Park or National Monument designation, or at least, a National Wildlife Refuge designation. The impacts of such a designation are obvious to collectors who have visited these areas collecting Montana agate, jasper, sapphires, garnets, concretions and the like.

Much of the preliminary work on these designations will be done by the Secretary of Interior Babbitt using his regulatory power to, halt logging, oil and gas exploration, and grazing, on public lands. (And you thought gas prices were high this last spring!) To quote a May 22, 1999, National Journal article, Secretary Babbitt is quoted as saying, “We’ve switched the rules of the game. We’re not trying to do anything legislatively” Which to us is like saying “we don’t care about what you or your elected officials think”. All of this is being done in the name of “protecting” these areas from big mining and oil companies.

In our opinion, you are the ones who will be most impacted. “Big Mining” and “Big Oil” and timber interests, will, as they have already done, go to foreign locations and sources. Where, incidentally, they don’t have to worry about strict environmental rules, replanting and rehabilitation and

other environmental concerns. I ask you, “**Does that help the total global effect of these activities???**” **My answer is NO!**

As to the smaller mining and oil production operations, as well as the ranching and farming operations, they will just disappear. U.S jobs will be lost. Lives will be destroyed. **(Contd on page 8)**

To quote the article and the Honorable Senator Orrin Hatch, “There is no question they are trying to stick it to us, and it’s really sad. These are the pioneer families who made the West, and they feel robbed”.

Just this year the administration has proposed a two year withdrawal (moratorium) on mineral activities in **Montana** (429,000 acres), **Colorado** (165,000 acres) and even in **Missouri** (5,000 acres) as indicated in our reports on the Federal Register in earlier issues.

Missouri Congressional Representatives have called the withdrawals “unnecessary and inappropriate”. Senator Conrad Burns of Montana is concerned with the lack any consultation input from the people who will be directly affected by these withdrawals, calling it an “**assault on the West**”.

Some Congressional action is anticipated to try to change the direction started by these actions of Secretary Babbitt. Senators Robert F. Bennett of Utah and Larry Craig of Idaho have introduced bills to amend the Antiquities Act. The Bill entitled *The National Monument Public Participation Act of 1999 (S-729)* is a reintroduction of a somewhat revised bill from the last Congress.

Other Bills before this Congress which are intended to deal with these “assault [s] on the West” are:

HR-883 - A bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands owned by the United States, and to preserve the State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal Lands surrounding those public lands.

HR-1107 - A Bill to prohibit the U.S. Government from entering into certain agreements or arrangements related to public lands without expressed prior approval of Congress.

HR-1258 - A Bill to accelerate the Wilderness designation process by establishing a timetable for the completion of wilderness studies on Federal Lands (It would eliminate wilderness study areas

after 10 years without a wilderness designation by Congress.)

HR-1523 - A bill to establish mandatory procedures to be followed by the Forest Service and the BLM in advance of the permanent closure of an, forest road so as to ensure local public participation in the decision making process.

S-510 - A Bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the U.S., and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-federal lands surrounding those public lands.

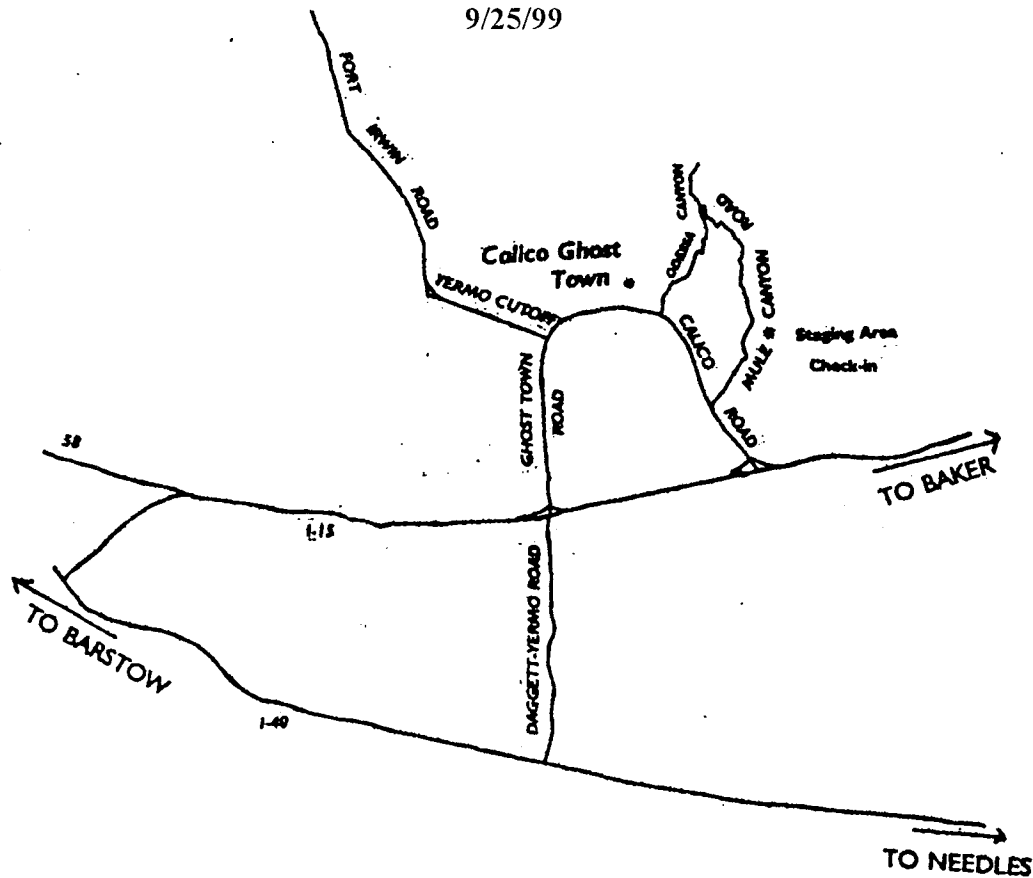
S-826 - A Bill to limit the acquisitions by the U.S. of land located in a State in which 25% or more of the land in that State is owned by the United States.

S-1202 - A Bill to require a “warrant of consent” before an inspection of land may be carried out to enforce any law administered by the Secretary of Interior. (see also HR-2253)

But **ALL THE BILLS IN CONGRESS** can't put “Humpty Dumpty Together Again” if **YOU DON'T WRITE** and tell your congressional representative that you want them to support these bills. If you do not, they will die. As always, in this country, **IT IS UP TO YOU. YOU MUST WRITE!**

AND THE BELL IS STARTING TO TOLL. Remember you don't have to live in the West to support the West. For More information on these and other issues ask for copies of the ALAA Electronic Newsletters from Bob Cranston, ALAA Secretary.

MAP TO
NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY
PROJECT
9/25/99



Take I-15, east of Barstow, to the Ghost Twon Road exit. Turn left at stop sign and continue on Ghost Town road past Calico Ghost Town. Turn left off of Calico Road on to Mule Canyon road. The staging and check-in area is approximately 1.7 miles from Calico road.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY VOLUNTEER PROJECT

SEPT. 25th, 1999

COME JOIN

together

for the desert



In partnership with



US Army Corps
of Engineers ©

AT

Mule & Odessa Canyons in the Calico Mountains

Volunteers will work on various projects including trash clean up, graffiti removal, route restoration, and barrier construction. A barbecue lunch will be served and the first 100 volunteers on site will receive a t-shirt and free pass to the nearby Rock-a-Hoola water park good for that afternoon.

- Map to NPLD Volunteer Project on back
- Meet at Mule Canyon staging area
- Check-in begins at 7:00 am Saturday Sept. 25, 1999
- Volunteer crews will work from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Lunch, awards, and activities from 1:00 pm to ?

WHAT TO BRING:

Hat, sunscreen, gloves, work boots, water, swimsuit & towel (for water park)
Pickup trucks and trailers for hauling trash to central collection points.
Off-road vehicles that are licensed or have current green stickers and spark arrestors.

If you can help, please fill out the information below and return to: Rose Foster-Villegas, *TOGETHER FOR THE DESERT*, 301 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311 (760) 252-6011
Name/address/phone: _____

Can you provide: Yes Number

Pickup Truck _____
Utility Trailer _____
No. in party _____