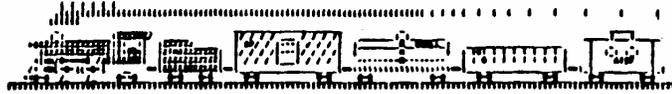




# The OPAL EXPRESS

Published monthly by the  
American Opal Society...



Vol. 18, No. 3  
March 1986

## THE MARCH MEETING OF THE FOUNDING CHAPTER

This month marks the 19th anniversary of the founding of the American Opal Society. How appropriate, then, that we should have as our guest speaker one of our past presidents and show chairmen, Mr. Larry Dobrin. Those of you who haven't had the privilege of meeting Larry are in for a real special treat ... Those of you who have had the privilege of meeting Larry are in for a real special treat... In other words, we welcome Mr. Dobrin quite heartily to our meeting! His presentation will feature California opal, and specifically the California opal that comes out of the Nowak mine, just northeast of Los Angeles. He'll tell us all the hows, whens, whats and wherefores of the mining process. It'll be a fun evening, you can count on it!!!

Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Date: Thursday, March 13, 1986.  
Place: In Downey, at the Cal-Fed Building  
8211 E. Firestone Blvd.

We proudly salute those dedicated leaders who have led us through our first 19 years....

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### AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY. INC. PRESIDENTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM IN YEARS</u>	<u>YEARS SERVED</u>
Stan Boul	1	July 1967 - June 1968
Bob Johnson	2	July 1968 - June 1970
Vern Trozzi	1	July 1970 - June 1971
Elmer Reed	3	July 1971 - June 1974
Ross Stambler	2	July 1974 - June 1976
Julius Lippa	2	July 1976 - June 1978
Larry Dobrin	2 1/2	July 1978 - Dec. 1980
Jim Sgro	1	Jan. 1981 - Dec. 1981
Tom Parker	2	Jan. 1982 - Dec. 1983
Harold Umberson	1	Jan. 1984 - Dec. 1984
Jewett Pattee	2	Jan. 1985 - Present

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month you will be receiving your copy of the new by-laws voted on and by your board of directors. This approval at the board's meeting was passed subject to the acceptance or rejection of the membership. Enclosed with your copy will be a slip for you to return to our P. O. box with your approval or disapproval.

Any comments, suggestions for improvements, or just plain gripes will be happily accepted. During my term of presidency I am trying to give you, the members, the society you want to have. I need your letters and information; I need to know what you want to see in this newsletter. This is the only means of communication we have.

Much of the informational material that we print comes from our members. One thing I can think of is a request to all our members who sell opal. Why not send us your show dates. Many of you sell opal at various gem shows around the country. I am sure our general membership, who obviously are interested in opal, would like to know where they can purchase it. (This is not to slight those of you who sell opal from a store. Send us your address.) Send us a brief description of what you sell and where and we will publish it. Of course, if you wish to let the members know what you are selling from month to month we have reasonable advertising rates.

Club News: The opal evaluation meeting of the founding chapter in February was very successful despite a dreary rainy day. Our local experts Ross Stambler, Dick Koch and John Hall helped the members appraise their opal. We had three official A.O.S. opal kits available for the members to directly compare their opals with the official standard of opals of the society. Having this standardized set of opals to compare with helps immeasurably when trying to evaluate your opal by our chart.

My enjoyment was looking at the opal brought in for evaluation. I have to say that at this session I saw some of the most beautiful stones I have ever viewed in my life.

This Month's Question: Your best friend, say, has a fine opal in a ring. Your friend asks you, "What do I do to keep this beautiful stone at its maximum brilliance? I have been given a lot of conflicting advice. One jeweler said to oil it regularly, one said use water, and another said to soak it in olive oil." What would you tell your friend?

Send your answer to Dr. Opal, P. O. Box 3895, Downey, CA 90242. We will publish the answers in a future issue.

# # # # #

SHOW BIZ 1986 — PART 3

The pace of January has slowed down just a little bit but there seems to be more and more to look after as the days go by. It is very exciting to be able to put this the 19th show together since it is enjoyable communicating and working with all our dealers. This show, to my knowledge, will be the largest show ever put on by the American Opal Society and probably the largest collection of opal in the West. As of this date we are over 80% sold and have a few tables still available but we still haven't heard from all of last years dealers yet.

The single biggest concern at the show last year was security, or lack of it, at the close of the show. That is definitely the time when we are the most vulnerable to robbery. We have submitted to the Board of Directors and got their approval to hire two armed guards at the close of the show to be a deterrent against someone deciding to make off with your valuables. We will be contracting with the Anaheim Police Department to have two of their officers on site from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. on Sunday night after the show closes. Hopefully this will give a warmer feeling about security this year.

As everyone sends their completed contracts in to us, we will sign and date them AND then place a number on them which is your sequence in the queue when it comes time to get table assignments. So don't delay too long because we are building a priority list. Our former dealers will be given additional consideration in table assignments. The exhibit hail layout and current table assignments will be made available after May 31 of this year. Since 'we have never been in this room before, we will be using a little bit of trial and ~error" in the selection process. I want to make the assignments public early so that we can hopefully take care of any inequities before show time.

If anyone has any questions about the show, please call after 5:30 P.M. on weekdays or any weekend at 714-734-7484.

Andy & Colleen Guerrette, 1986 Show Chairmen

# # # # #

## **“THAT’S NOT MY JOB”**

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

Author Unknown

WELCOME

WELCOME

WELCOME

WELCOME

WELCOME

A great big hearty LOS welcome to our newest members. Welcome one and all. As you can plainly see this is a growing organization and not only from here in California but from far distances as well.

Irwan Holmes  
Jakarta, Indonesia

George Castas Far Rockaway,  
New York

Goerge Gustafson  
Alberta, Canada

Keith & Joyce Baker  
Lake View Terrace, California

In 1985, the Board of Directors gave memberships to every participating dealer in the November 1985 show. The new members are:

Joseph Cyr  
Doyle & Claudia Haight  
Thomas & Marlynn Hendricks  
Jerry D. Liner  
Joe & Margie Rudd

Donald & Wendy Elliot  
James Hancock  
G. Keith Hodson  
Matt Ribarich  
D.S. Zody

and the folks at the following companies:

Too Few & Precious

Western Opal Corp.

Also welcome to the Carmichael Gem & Mineral Society of Sacramento, California. We have begun swapping newsletters with them as a means of exchanging ideas and information. If any of our members belong to other clubs and would to trade newsletters, please ask you club officers if they would contact us here on the Express staff at our Downey P.O. Box.

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### Weight Conversion Table

UNIT TO CONVERT	GRAMS	CARATS	OZ. TROY	DWT	OZ. AV.	GRAIN
1 CARAT	.20	1			.00705478	3.08647
1 GRAM	1	5	.03215	.5430	.03527	15.4324
1 PENNYWEIGHT	1.5517		.05	1	.0548571	24
1 GRAIN	.06479	.3240	.0020833	.041667	.0022857	1
1 OUNCE TROY	31.10348	155.51	1	20	1.09714	480
1 OUNCE AVOIRDUPOIS	28.3495	141.75	.9114883	18.2297		437.5
1 POUND TROY	373.241	1,866.12	12	240	13.1657	5,760
1 POUND AVOIRDUPOIS	453.592	2,267.96	14.5833	291.667	16	7,000

\*\*\*\*\* BOARD REPORT \*\*\*\*\*

The February 20th meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the Pattee's residence and began about 7:30 P.M. and closed somewhere in the vicinity of 9:45 P.M. Discussions at times were very lively and matters were brought up, voted on and approved and the following was accomplished:

1. New By-laws will be submitted to paid members for their approval.
2. Discussed splitting the general ledgers of the Corporation and the Founding Chapter. Tabled till the March meeting.
3. Board meeting for next month will be in Dr. Stambler's waiting room.
4. Discussed needs for Standing Rules.
5. Discussed setting up a "starter kit" for bringing on new chapters.
6. Treasurers report was submitted and approved.
7. Secretary's minutes were submitted and approved.
8. Authorized purchase of diskettes for corporate and chapter data files.
9. Andy Guerrette will investigate copyrighting the LOS logo and "The Opal Express" name.
10. Authorized show chairmen to contract for armed security officers at show closing.

Editor's Note: The Board of Directors meetings are open to all society members in good standing. The meetings are at 7:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of every month at the Pattee's residence. Call 213-425-2426 for directions.

# # # # #

STILL AVAILABLE... .BUT GOING FAST!!

"Opal and How to Cut It" by Frank Barnett. \$7.00 postpaid.

"Australian Opals & Gemstones - Nature's Own Fireworks" - \$5.00 postpaid

"I LOVE OPAL" pins - \$1.50 each, postpaid.



ONE PERSON'S OPINION  
by Andy Guerrette

This is the era of inflation and a lessening of quality in favor of quantity and profits. One often wonders where a real bargain can be found this year. Well, look no further because you have found it right here in the pages of "The Opal Express". This is the official voice of the American Opal Society. My wife, Colleen, "The Editor", and I are finding it increasingly difficult to come up with new ideas and articles for YOUR newsletter. This is the primary means of communication between all our members and we really need your input (i.e. ideas, topics, hints, suggestions, items for sale, items that you want to buy from other members, etc). I could go on and on.

What kinds of articles would you like to see? We want everyone to be involved in the Society and distance is no excuse because we can all write. It is very easy. Pick up a pen or pencil and just write what you would say if I were standing near you. If you have a tape recorder, say your thoughts to the recorder, play it back and write it down or send us the tape. We will be glad to transcribe it for you. Then with some editing, you will have an editorial ready to insert into the Express. Try it and you will find that writing is rewarding and habit forming.

We are always looking for additional staff writers. We would love to hear from our new dealer members and get your views and opinions. What can we do for you?

I hope that this column, "ONE PERSON'S OPINION", will be a monthly event with each month being written by a different member. This is a challenge, yes, a challenge, that I am giving to every member. Lets see what we can do this year.



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**GEMS, ETC.**

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**Jean A. Zamot**  
Graduate Gemologist

15032 East Whittier Blvd.  
Whittier, California 90603  
(213) 943-0090



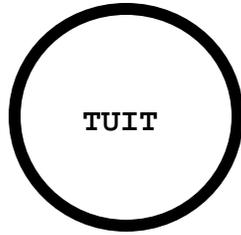
**KCB & ASSOCIATES**

FINE QUALITY PEARLS  
AMERICAN NATURAL FRESHWATER PEARLS  
NATURAL COLOR PEARLS  
BIWA GOLD · ¼ BLISTER PEARLS  
COLLECTIBLE, RARE AND UNUSUAL GEMS  
AUSTRALIAN BOULDER OPAL · JEWELRY · CRYSTALS  
COLOMBIAN EMERALDS · PALA PINK TOURMALINE  
AMERICAN PINK MUSSEL SHELL  
NATURAL WHITE STONE BEADS

USPO BOX 1737  
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA  
90406-1737 USA

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TEL.: (213) 394-8870  
TELEX: 215604 PCS UR ATT: R-101

(Business card advertising space  
available for members)



Please Cut Out And Keep

At long last the Membership Committee has been able to acquire a sufficient quantity of these for all the American Opal Society members to have their own. Guard it with your life. Never lose it, and don't let anyone take it away from you.

These TUITs have been very hard to come by, especially in the round version. We are glad to have them because the demand has been so great, and now many of our problems will finally be solved.

We look for everyone's involvement to double now that each member has his own round TUIT. As so many of you have said in the past, "I will get started on this just as soon as I get a round TUIT." Others have frequently complained, "I know that the job should be done, but I just haven't been able to get a round TUIT."

Membership Committee



The Opal Express Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Colleen Guerrette  
Asst. Editor: Andy Guerrette

Printing & Distribution:

Jewett & Dorothea Pattee

Contributing Editor: Jewett Pattee

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

Jewett Pattee, President, 213-425-2426	Ross Stambler, 213-693-6898
Dick Koch, 1st VP, 213-927-4372	Elaine Milliron, 213-632-9965
Bill Judd, 2nd VP, 213-923-4663	Harold Umberson, 213-693-7380
Andy Guerrette, Treas., 714-734-7484	Joe Vezeau, 714-523-1318
Dorothea Pattee, Sec., 213-425-2426	Brian Franks, 714-857-2743
Roy Savage, 213-867-4336	Larry Dobrin, 213-305-7674

**\* Tix OPAL EXPRESS**

P.O. Box 3895  
Downey, CA 90242

**FIRST CLASS**

