

AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY

Monthly Newsletter

September 30, 1973

Meeting Dates:

October.....Thursday, October 4, 1973

November.....Thursday, November 8, 1973

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Downey Moose Lodge 663

12741 S. Bellflower (Second Floor), Downey, California

September Meeting:

We had a good turn-out at our September meeting. There were fifty-three members and three guests present.

President Elmer Reed gave a talk on the type of jewelry having the most eye and sales appeal for those planning to have jewelry for sale in the AOS booth.

Elmer points out the following facts:

1. The less busy the setting, the more sales appeal it has.
2. The most popular stones are 6 x 8 to 8 x 10 mm. Larger stones will have to be more expensive.
3. Rings on other pieces of jewelry ranging in price from 35.00 to 75.00 comprise the great majority of sales.

After the talk by Elmer, the show committee chairmen gave reports on the preparations for the show. Briefly, the ticket sales are going great--better than anticipated. Preparations for food and kitchen facilities are progressing as planned. There does not seem to be any problem area, except in the matter of obtaining volunteers for help in certain areas. More about that later.

The rest of the evening was taken up by appraisal sessions of jewelry being put on sale at the AOS booth.

October Meeting:

The October meeting is to be held on October 4th, one week before the regularly scheduled meeting date, due to a conflict in reservation of the meeting hall. Please remember--the meeting will be this Thursday, October 4th!

This meeting will be taken up with last-minute preparations for the show. President Elmer Reed and the more-experienced members of the Society will continue appraising jewelry for Society members. The show committee chairmen will hold their usual discussions regarding the coordination of efforts for the show.

Members not directly involved with the show efforts usually have "rap" sessions about cutting and polishing techniques, or are busy showing off their braggin' rocks. We would like to have a good attendance at this meeting as it is at this last meeting at which we plug holes in any areas in which we need a little volunteer help.

Item:

At the Director's meeting one month ago it was decided to have as first prize at the show an opal ring, of 14K gold. Loreen Haas was to provide the stone and the diamonds to set it off, at cost, while Vern Trozzi was to manufacture the ring. It was estimated the ring would be valued at between \$250 to \$300 retail, which would make a very attractive prize.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis, who most of us know through their visits at our meetings, were in from Australia recently, and they donated an opal scene, which would make a splendid second-prize.

However, as the donations come pouring in it appears that there are just too many valuable pieces of jewelry to be used as hourly prizes. In fact, George Eash has donated one of his casting machines and it would ordinarily be used as an hourly prize. Can you picture one of his machines being used as one of the hourly prizes?

To make a long story short, at the Directors' meeting of September 27th it was suddenly realized we will be giving away almost as much value in prizes as we would be taking in through ticket sales. This is an unheard of situation, since it appears that the maximum prizes in the average show total a maximum of about 25% of ticket sales. It was decided that we take another look at our prizes and make an evaluation of what percentage of total ticket sales we should consider giving as prize awards. There is a possibility the Society would realize more from the donations if some were sold (with the concurrence of the people making the donations) at the AOS sales booth.

The subject is wide open for discussion. Please be prepared to offer your suggestions.

Item:

Naomi Bartholomew reports that she still needs volunteers to assist in the kitchen and at the cash register. I have seen her list of the hours at which volunteers are needed and both days have gaping holes which have to be filled.

As you know any major effort of the Society, such as the annual show requires help from all the members. There has to be a lot of volunteer work in order to have a successful show. One of the areas requiring volunteers is in helping with the kitchen and at the cash register. I worked in the kitchen preparing sandwiches for several hours last year and found it very pleasant.

So please, ladies and gentlemen, if you can possibly do it your help would be greatly appreciated.

We will also need volunteers to be at the Women's Club Friday night to assist in moving furniture, covering the carpet, and setting up display and dealers' tables. This work has to be done to prepare for the show. These same volunteers will be needed to pick up and transport the ticket tumbler to the hall. It is large and cumbersome, but has to be used for the drawings. May we count on your help?

Item:

Carol Gibson forwards the following note:

"Donations received in September:

Jim Bennett.....Pierced earrings of opal

Bill and Edith Baker.....Lady's opal ring

David Walblom.....Opal Pendant

Bill and Della Judd.....Two lady's opal rings and an opal tie-tack.

Jack and Catherine Bieniek.....Opal necklace

George and Hazel Eash.....Casting Machine

Dore Hudson.....Six beautiful opal tie-tacks

Ticket sales among the members are moving rapidly, with many members requesting more. Tickets to members not receiving them at the meetings are in the mail. Please try to sell them--if you cannot, return them to me at the show."

Item:

There is a wonderful guy, an associate member, in Bristol, Tenn., who sent just a wonderful note with some money for show tickets. Our sincerest thanks to Wally Cooper. You certainly gave Carol and me a warm feeling in our hearts, Wally. Hope you can make it out here sometime. Would like to meet you.

Item:

I received a request for information from Mr. William Uptegraff of Pittsburgh, Pa. His letter begins, "I am just an associate member of the Society, but....." Well, Sir, nobody is "just an associate member" of the Society! You, Bill, and many others like you in this country, Mexico, and Australia, are the Society. True, the charter members do the work for the Society, but your dues help in covering the expense of publishing the newsletter, in providing the educational programs, and in general, providing information and help to others afflicted with Opal-itis.

In answer to your request, yes, I can help you and will be very pleased to. You will receive my written reply in a few days.

Vick Mayo, Editor.