



American Opal Society

P.O. Box 3895, Downey, California 90242

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Monthly Newsletter

July 2, 1975

Meeting Dates:

JulyThursday, July 10, 1975

AutustThursday, Aug. 14, 1975

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Downey Moose Lodge 663
12741 So. Bellflower (Second Floor)
Downey, California

June Meeting:

You could almost hear the sound of Marachi's as Bill Valesquez gave us an armchair tour of Mexico. The colors and beauty of this ancient land came alive as we sat there watching. Moving down south we encountered the famous Opal Fields in which Magdalena serves as the chief trading center for Opals. Where peasants and wealthy dealers peddle their Opals, along the street.

He also showed us the many varieties of Mexican Opal, some of which resembles the Australian in color and intensity, but more importantly he showed us many varieties of the Mexican Opal, in which some were unrivaled in beauty for any country.

For those attending June's Meeting the show depicted the American Opal Societies proposed trip to Mexico as an exciting, interesting and enjoyable adventure.

July's Meeting:

Identifying gem stones for people other than

professional gemologist can be a tricky and almost impossible thing to do. Even people familiar with Gem Stones and their properties must be cautious in the purchase of certain gem stones. One time or another you are likely to be approached to purchase a gem stone of which you are not sure of its identity, but with a basic knowledge and certain simple tests you can perform with a minimum of gemilological equipment in which you will be able to judge fairly accurately the actual identity of the stone.

With this thought in mind we are very fortunate to have Janis Mack, a member of the staff of G.I.A., speak on High Intensity Light Identification of Gem Stones with a Minimum of Gemological Instruments. This is Ms. Mack second presentation to our society and if it is anything like the first we are guaranteed an interesting and educational evening.

Items:

Elections were held last meeting and the following gentlemen were elected to the Board of Directors: Anthony Carton, Dr. Ross Stambler, Marvin Wilson. Congratulations, and we wish you all good luck.

Sometimes we forget to thank those people who have served on the Board as our representatives it is only fitting that we extend our sincerest gratitude to Dr. Hudson and Loreen Haas for giving their time to improve the American Opal Society for all.

Members of the Board of Directors

Phil Bass	Victor Mayo	Vernon Trozzi
Anthony Carton	Elmer Reed	Bill Whittle
Clyde Doan	Ed Slawinski	Marvin Wilson
Bill Judd	Ross Stambler	

Officers of the Board of Directors

President.....Ross Stmbler
First Vice President.....Victor Mayo
Second Vice President.....Phill Bass
Executive Secretary.....Bill Judd

Item:

Bill Judd's Workshop is open on Monday and
Tuesday evenings. For an enjoyable evening and one
in which you can learn and teach at the same time
please call Bill at this phone number. (213) 869-4155

Special Thanks:

It is in this issue the editor would like to thank
Jim & Jackie Holland For their invaluable help in printing and
mailing of the news letter. For as Homer said: "Light is the
task when many share the toil". Again thank you.

Editor, James Sgro

Our Program for the month of June was presented by one of our members, Bill Valesquez, who did a very nice job of presenting it, using two projectors. Mr. Valesquez, along with three brothers own three of the mines shown on this map.

Bill is photographing more of his beautiful stones and hopes to use four projectors simultaneously eventually. This multiple use of projectors really keeps the program moving.

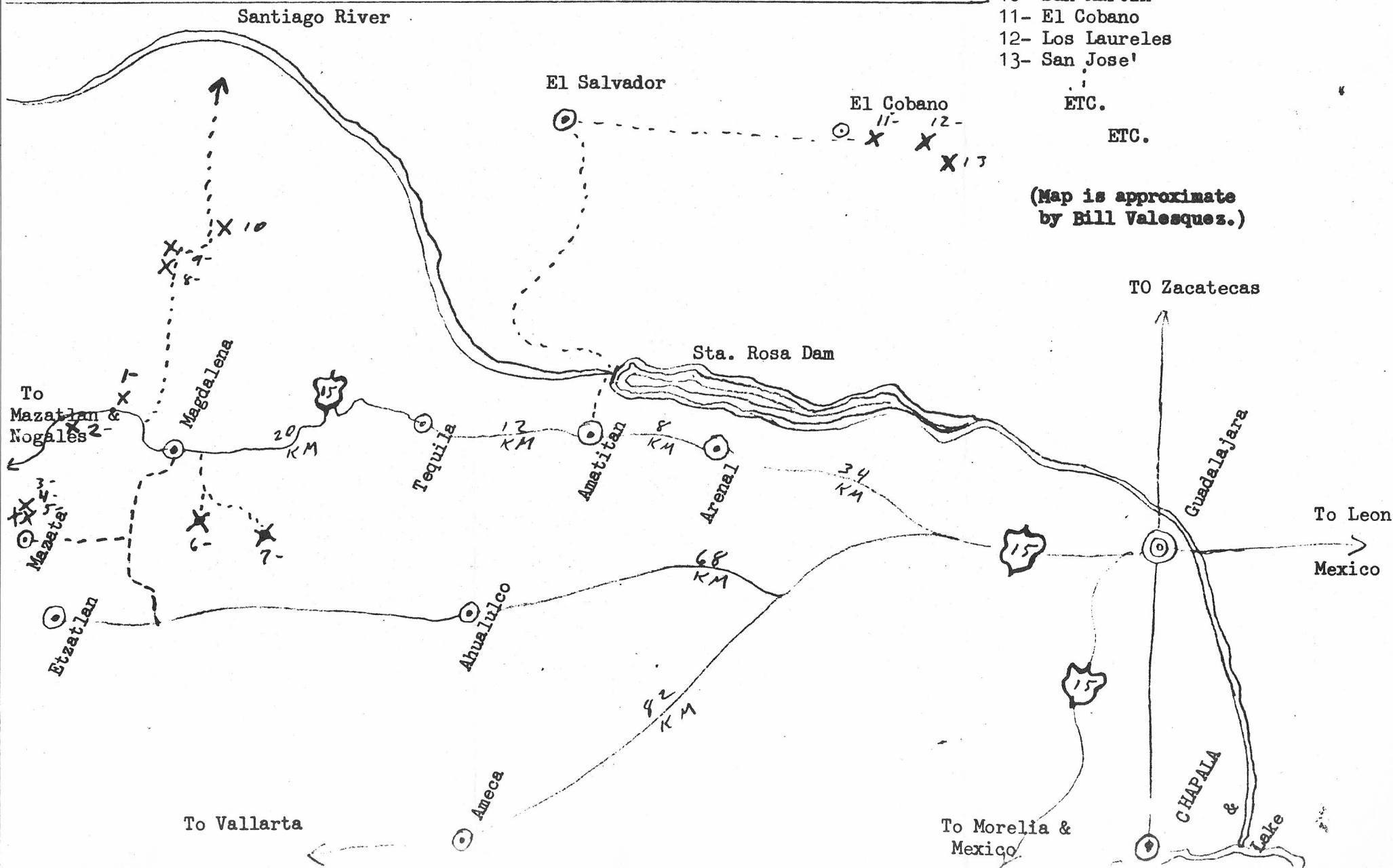
Bill Judd, Secretary
American Opal Society

- 1- El Huajical
- 2- Pata de Gallo
- 3- San Andres
- 4- La Colmena
- 5- La Esperansa
- 6- Las Latillas
- 7- La Unica
- 8- San Simon
- 9- Hosto
- 10- San Martin
- 11- El Cobano
- 12- Los Laureles
- 13- San Jose'

ETC.

ETC.

(Map is approximate
by Bill Valesquez.)



Item:

There seems to be a great deal of interest these days in synthetics - possibly since so much of our precious gemstone material has gone beyond the reach of the average rockhound and cutter. More and more, these days, the trade journals have an increasing number of ads for synthetic star sapphire, diamond, turquoise, black opal, etc.

This is a very good example of the basic laws of supply and demand. With greater affluence in industrial and developed nations there is a greater demand for gems from those who can afford them, with the inevitable increase in price directly due to that demand. However, very few new sources of precious gems have opened up, adding to the problem of diminishing supply.

Fortunately, there are men of daring and vision who recognize a problem and challenge and are willing to gamble their time and fortunes in satisfying demands such as we encounter in our field. One man of such vision is Pierre Gilson, of Switzerland, who has done so much in synthesizing emeralds, opal, and turquoise. M. Gilson has recently become one of our associate members. We look forward to a long and mutually rewarding association. Perhaps M. Gilson can keep us informed, and abreast of the state of the art in the world of synthetics.

The nights shall be filled with opal,
And the cares that infest the day
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.
.....with apologies to Longfellow.....

Item:

Those avid readers of the three primary gem trade journals have probably already solved the mystery of why the Star-Gems ad carried the notations excluding Californians from purchase of their materials. Those hit-and-miss readers will have to turn to the last page of the Lapidary Journal for the answer.

Happy hunting!

Vick Mayo

Item:

Hot off the presses! The following article appeared in the Santa Ana Register, Wednesday, July 2nd. It is just a coincidence that it should appear when I had just written the little blurb on another page of this newsletter.....

The REGISTER

Wednesday, July 2, 1975

E1

Vick

JEWELERS WORRY

Synthetic Opal Costs \$40 To \$400

GENEVA (AP) — French industrialist Pierre Gilson says the synthetic opal he created will allow women to wear beautiful jewelry "without ruining their husbands."

His invention has sent a chill through the opal industry of Australia which mines some 95 per cent of the world supply of the rare gem formed in ancient seabeds that dried out millions of years ago.

The Australians fear the competition from the cheaper manmade stone could ruin their opal exports, valued at \$50 million a year. They also fear dishonest dealers could pass manmade opals off as natural stones.

Gilson, who is 61 and runs a factory in France producing building ceramics, feels there is little danger of that, and he insists synthetic gems simply will help in making jewelry "more democratic."

Gilson says natural opals bear distinctive marks from which the stones can be traced to their original location, while the comparative uniformity of the manmade opal can be recognized

by the expert.

Manmade stones also have better polish and no traces of impurities. And then, he says, there are "certain gimmicks" allowing an expert to distinguish them quickly.

One of these, he says, is the difference in fluorescence between the natural and the synthetic stone that can be measured after both were exposed to the same source of light.

Gilson says a manmade opal is sold with a certificate bearing his name and signature in print and identifying the stone as laboratory-made.

Gilson says the manmade opal produced in his laboratories in France and Geneva sells at between \$40 per carat for white stones and \$400 per carat for black stones.

These are factory prices he charges, and "of course the price goes up on the way down to the customer," he says.

In Australia, Amsil Ltd., his agent, told newsmen the manmade stone will be sold at less than half the price of the natural opal that can go to \$4,000-\$6,500 per carat.

July 1, 1975

R.L. Bartholomew
354 N. Hartley
W. Covina, Ca. 91790

We would like to extend to you an invitation to exhibit your display at the American Opal Society's 8th Annual Show, on Saturday and Sunday, October 11th and 12th, 1975, at the Civic Center, 12700 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, California.

We regret to inform you that it is impossible for us to obtain insurance on the display, and it is requested that you obtain coverage through your agent. However there will be security guards on duty from 6 pm Friday evening, until Sunday at 9pm. The show hours are from 10 am to 10 pm Saturday, and from 10 am to 6 pm Sunday.

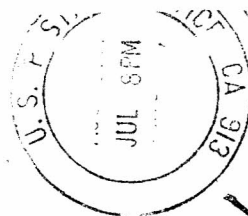
We will begin setting up the cases and displays Friday evening from 6 pm to 10 pm. You may bring your case Friday evening or early Saturday morning.

Since this is an Opal show, we request that your display has a fair amount of opal in either Australian, U.S., Mexican, So. American, or a combination of these. Often a display is more interesting or shows off to better advantage when some use is made of a different type of stone which compliments the opal.

If your display will include something very outstanding, please inform us as to what it is. We will try to advertise it.

We MUST have the information below to reserve you a space, as soon as possible. We think this will be a great show, and look forward to seeing you there.

AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3895
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242



Jacob R. Schmidt
29000 Del Monte Dr.
Sun City, Calif. 92381