



American Opal Society

P. O. Box 3895, Downey, California 90242
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Monthly Newsletter

March 1977

Meeting Dates*Thursday, March 10, 1977*
Thursday, April 14, 1977

Time: 7:30 P. M.
Place: Elks Lodge (Antler Room)
1223 Woodruff Avenue, Downey, Calif.
(On Woodruff Ave., just South of Firestone)
(Antler Room is behind the Elks Lodge)

➔ *Note: This meeting is our 10th Anniversary Dinner Meeting.
It will be held at 7:00 at the ABBOTTS,
11625 South Paramount, Downey.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the American Opal Society featured a presentation by Claude Schapers, a Southern California who has held most of the offices in the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) at one time or another. An active Federation booster, Claude described the origins of the CFMS and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). He told us the purpose of these groups, described their organizations and activities and enumerated the many services they perform for their member groups. He detailed the costs of membership and dwelt at length on the liability insurance available. The American Opal Society governing body will consider the costs and advantages of joining the CFMS.

The February meeting continued with discussion of various possible society projects and programs. Suggestions were received for five programs for future meetings.

Descriptions were given of past activities in the direction of developing a photographic program for the stones and jewelry items of AOS members. Anyone who has tried to make good photographs of polished opal will appreciate the difficulties involved. A rather standard set-up, properly lighted, and with appropriate background and specimen mount could provide quick and accurate record photos for both insurance and advertising purposes.

For those who enjoy cutting our favorite gemstone, the ongoing project of making sample grading sets was redescribed. The AOS proposes to purchase standard calibrated size finished opals of one to one-and-a-half carat each from AOS members for assembly into sample sets. The sets, arranged in grades corresponding to AOS grading guidelines, will provide for much better appraisal of opal value by allowing direct comparison with visible standards.

The announcement that ill-health had forced the resignation of long time active member and ex-president Elmer Reed from the American Opal Society governing board was received with much regret. Elmer's many contributions to the AOS over the years have had a great deal to do with the present successful status of the organization.

NEW AOS BOARD MEMBERS

The AOS Board of Directors on February 24, 1977 nominated and approved Jack K. Lennard, Newsletter Editor, and John E. Hall Jr., Meeting Program Chairman, to membership on the Board of Directors replacing Bill Widdle and Elmer Reed.

GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

There is no formal program planned for the March 10th general meeting that will take place at the ABBOTTS to celebrate the AOS 10th Anniversary. The program for April 14, 1977 will feature two slide and comentary sessions:

"An Opal Misadventure", by Marjory and Joe Biller
and

"Opal Mining at Coober Pedy", by Ed Slawinski

CHICAGO CHAPTER NEWS

The February 20th meeting of the Chicago Chapter opened with a discussion of opal display material and setup of two showcases for our entry in the Federation combined Chicago May-Lapidary Show at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. At the March meeting members will bring in opal and educational material.

Lyle Backus then acted as discussion leader for an appraisal session on finished opal cabs using the AOS appraisal system as a guide. It was brought out that at wholesale, Brazilian opal could be bought at about half the price of Australian opal, grade for grade.

At the March meeting, member Paul Kasarda will present a talk on optical phenomenon gems with an exhibit for illustration.

AOS Newsletter Editor: Jack. K. Lennard

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