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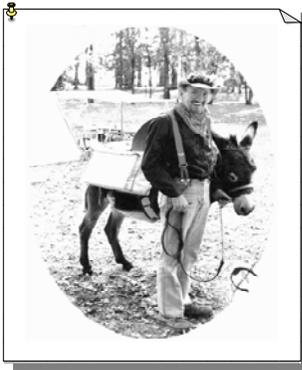
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**Items for news letter in
by 1st of Month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

May 2004

Next meeting
May 20, 2004

Presidents Corner

April has been a busy month. The outing at Beverly Beach had a good turnout. 13 folks showed up and enjoyed the great weather the Saturday before Easter.

I would like to thank the folks that helped set up at the Rickreall show and helped with the booth. Diane Smith and I set up a display case for the club. Don Miller from Willamette Agate and Gem Society (W.A.M.S.) donated an antique carbide miner's lamp to the club for our displays. (Thank you Don!)

I would also like to welcome new members; if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

I hope everyone that wanted to attend the workshop was able to. Any extra handouts will be distributed at the next meeting.

Enclosed in this issue are some mandatory guidelines to follow when working the Shady Cove claim on the Little North Fork Santiam River.

Good prospecting! Dale

Outings/Events

May 28-31 Vincent Creek or WVM #1

June 12 Sharps Creek

Guest speaker at the meeting will be Dan Cantral from Beaver State Coinshooters
He will be there to talk about metal detecting and their upcoming club hunt.

Rickreall Rock and Gem Show

Thanks to all the people that helped at the show. Will W. even got his name in the Statesman Journal along with the clubs, and a short blurb about our panning booth. Great going Will! We had a lot of new people join the club and we taught quite a few kids and old folk how to pan during the 3 days. From what I heard, Friday was a mad house but everyone lived through it. Now if we could only keep the popcorn and oily hands out of the tubs.

Gary S. has all the sand wash out and dried so it is ready to go again. He did find quite a bit of gold in the sand we can recycle. I know Wes and Diane were panning it out Sunday at the show and putting the gold into the kids pans.

This is not a club event but we do need to mention it:

SAY NOTHING TO JOE & SHIRLEY

They will be getting a news letter with out this part in it.

Joe and Shirley Garcia (long time members) are having their 50th Wedding Anniversary Party on the 12th of June at noon. It will be held at Anthony Hall in Stayton. If you would like to join them, please let

(Mrs Cindy Smith c/o Gina Tilley – 619 36th Ave NE – Salem, OR 97301)

know you are coming. If you are unable to attend and would like to send a card, send it to the address above.

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2004

Juel Russell, Secretary

- Meeting attendance sign-up sheet was circulated. 41 people were present.
- Officers were introduced. Introduction of all in attendance.
- March meeting minutes were accepted as written.
- Treasurer's Report was read and approved.
- Rickreall Rock and Gem Show begins tomorrow. Sign up sheet was circulated as help was still needed, especially Friday.
- The outings committee reported that there were 13 people at the Beverly Beach outing. They had beautiful weather. They did very well. A question was asked about how beach sluices work. Wes brought his sluice in to show.
- Trudy reported that as of March 18th the State Parks are honoring the Golden Age Pass. The signs still say they are not, but she called and verified that they are.
- Dale reported that GPAA donated a T-shirt, a denim shirt, and a sweatshirt to our club during the show in March. One shirt will be put on the raffle table tonight, one next month, and one in June.
- May 1st is the annual mining workshop led by Dale. A map to the workshop was in the March newsletter. This year's workshop will include map reading and Oregon gem stones.
- May 8th is the Shady Cove outing.
- Dale asked if anyone was interested in joining the Claims Committee. Paul M. expressed interest. Dale requested that Larry Coon chair the committee and schedule a meeting soon to begin the paperwork. Dale expressed the need to be especially careful with Shady Cove paperwork this year.
- Dale instructed us not to give verbal consent to anyone who is not a member of the club to mine on our claim, especially at Shady Cove. If someone is on the claim, ask them to leave or join the club. It is ok to take guests with you as long as you are working the claim. It is critical that we not give the rights to our claim away or we will lose it.
- Tom Q. gave a report on government affairs. When our governor was attorney general, he made it clear he wanted no mining in scenic waters. He is trying to take those rights from us. A board was put together to make decisions on the use of scenic waters. Many on the board want miners out of the water. In the current draft of their ruling, 6 out of 18 streams will remain active for mining. One of the groups opposed to mining is planning to sue.
- A request was made for someone to take the club computer. Don agreed to store it.
- The club banner currently says "Willamette Valley Miners." Discussion was held regarding adding the words "Salem, Oregon." Paul M. moved to add "Salem, Oregon" and Wes seconded the motion, which passed.
- We need more business cards and membership cards. Trudy was asked to price the cost of getting more printed.
- The floor was opened for new business.
- The question was asked if people buy black sand. Buyers can be found in the International California Mining Journal.
- Ellen shared that she brought an article about the reopening of a zinc mine in Washington.
- A request was made for articles and camping recipes for the newsletter.
- In March, Washington miners helped uncover salmon eggs on a sandbar in the Columbia.

- Gary S. asked if we are going to send a donation to another organization since we no longer pay dues to OIM. Last year we donated to Waldo Mining District. Other options are Eastern Oregon Mining Association and Public Lands for the People. Dale will bring information on PLP to the next meeting.
- Coho salmon have been delisted but its habitat has not. Bull trout on the Klamath have been listed as threatened.
- Tom Q. requested that we consider changing the bylaws to add the position of Government Affairs to be a Board position. In order to change bylaws, the change must be published in the newsletter 30 days prior to the vote. Gary moved to change the bylaws and the motion was seconded. Voting will take place at the June meeting.
- The club currently has 111 members.
- Tom contacted the Mineral Resource Legal Foundation. They are not currently interested in restoring OIM.
- The meeting was turned over to Wes for the raffle. Ken Haines won the camping rack and Fred Fellabaum won the silver round.

MINING

Since the great Gold Rush of 1849 with discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, mining equipment and technology have improved tremendously. Metal detectors were invented during World War II to find landmines. Today they detect small nuggets weighing only a few grams. Gold dredges have evolved rapidly from the huge cumbersome trailered barges to lightweight backpack models that even get the fine flower gold without using mercury.

With improvements in technology, have you ever wondered what the future has in store? Metal detectors, for instance, are currently available that give a digital readout of the type of metal the object is made of and show how deep in the ground it is buried. In a few years, detectors will give an image of the object on the screen as well as depth. At the end of the century, technology will be so advanced you will not be using a meter or LCD display, it will not even beep. Instead the unit will present a holographic image of the target. So you only dig up what you want. The unit will display a reading of dimensions, type of metal and how deep it is so you can recover it without damaging it.

By the 22nd century, all detectors will have a built in replicator and replicate the target on top of the ground so the hunter does not need to dirty their hands.

TIPS

SCENIC WATERWAY RULES

The Oregon Scenic Waterway rules require us to work in the current wet area of the stream (i.e. in the water). It does not allow us to dig in the bank or to dig up vegetation. However, if you have a sand bar completely surrounded by water, it is ok to work there, but do not harm the vegetation. Further definitions will be given at the meeting.

TIPS FOR SUCTION DREDGE MINING IN OREGON WATERS IF YOUR HARASSED BY PEOPLE CLAIMING YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT.

KEEP A COOL HEAD AND DO NOT GET INTO A CONFRONTATION WITH ANYONE CLAIMING YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

Have in your possession all current state and federal authorized permits to conduct mining in Oregon waters and be careful not violate the rules stated on your permits.

Have a note pad and pen to write down the description of person(s), name(s) if possible and description of vehicle or license number of vehicle(s).

You do not have to show your permits. Only show permits to an enforcement officer if requested.

Have in your possession a copy of HB 1152 Mineral Trespass law (see copy on next page) and a copy to give anyone who tries to interfere with your mining operation. HB 1152 covers harassment and the enforcement provision carries a class (c) misdemeanor. Put these people on notice you will call authorities requesting the enforcement provision in HB 1152 if they continue to interfere with your mining activities.

This law applies to mining claim holders and waters opened to recreational suction dredge activity.

HAVE A GOOD MINING SEASON.

THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR THE CLUB

- Call someone you have not seen at a meeting lately.
- Share mining Hints & Tips in a newsletter.
- Contribute an article for the newsletter.
- Join a committee and learn more about participating.
- Bring a friend to the meetings or outings.
- Bring something to donate to the raffle table.
- Help with the workshop.
- Attend a government meeting regarding mining issues.

This next one just might help some of us old timers

Is It a Stroke? This might be a lifesaver if we can remember the three questions!

I had never heard this advice before and hadn't a clue. Perhaps you hadn't either and would like to file it away in the back of your head. Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster.

The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- * ask the individual to smile.
- * ask him or her to raise both arms.
- * ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of nonmedical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions.

They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

This is the information I have on the **The Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass**.

Tom is still trying to get more information on it.

The Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass is an add-on to the federal GOLDEN EAGLE Passport, which is honored at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and US Fish and Wildlife Service sites charging fees for entrance into federal recreation areas. Also included, entrance to the 20 participating Washington State Parks and the 6 US Army Corps of Engineers sites charging a vehicle parking fee. In addition to these benefits, the pass purchaser will also have access to the 26 Oregon State parks charging a day-use fee.

The cost is \$85, \$65 for the Golden Eagle Passport plus \$20 for the add-on tag.

The Golden Access or Golden Age cardholder does NOT qualify of the \$20 add-on or receive a 50 % discount. Due to the increased benefits and value of the Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass, as well as it being an annual pass, the lifetime Golden Age and Access cardholders will NOT be eligible to upgrade their passports.

For additional information on the Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass, please contact the Forest service at: 1-800-270-7504 or on the web at www.naturenw.org

In 1872, veteran prospectors Philip Arnold and John Slack bought \$35,000 worth of diamonds in Europe and scattered them on land in Wyoming. They managed to convince the Bank of San Francisco they had discovered a diamond field and made \$700,000.

MINERS, A STRANGE GROUP OF PEOPLE...

Miners are a strange group of people. Maybe I should single out the male miners, as I am a member of that group and have some experience. We dig and wash dirt and rock; we vacuum up all sorts of things from the bottom of streams, hoping to find gold. We will sometimes drive hundreds of miles and spend hundreds of dollars just to try our luck in another stream.

Most of us are also collectors and amateur inventors. We never saw a piece of mining equipment we didn't think we could improve upon. I know if ten of us were to bring our sluice boxes to a stream, there would be ten different variations; some small and some large. There would be different riffles or carpet. Each may set up at different slants to feed them slower or faster. Which one is best? The answer is the one that works the best for you. Are you finding color? Are you trapping the fines? What part of the sluice is trapping the gold? You have to find the answer for yourself. That's part of the fun...or is it work?

The sluice is basic in many operations, highbanking and dredging. Unless you have a tromel, which is a good method, but not as popular as a sluice with riffles. It would help to feed your sluice at the rate that allows the riffles to stay clear below each slat. You may have to adjust more or less water pressure or more or less slope to the unit as to the rate you can feed it. If your sluice is on a dredge, you should have someone tending for you.

This was not meant to be an instruction article, but as a miner I have to put down what I may have learned. Some think it's common knowledge, but not all would agree. We are male miners.

Equipment costs a lot of money, so when we want something, it is the most natural thing to study it and say, "I can make that myself". I can too! "Let's see, a dredge, one motor, one pump, one sluice box, couple of floats, some hose and presto! The finest dredge ever built!"

Most of these work, but are not too economical – the reason we started to build it in the first place! A used pump, the lawnmower motor, my converted six foot sluice box, some truck tubes and a trip to the irrigation supply store for the hose, time and work, "fun", \$485. Then we look in the paper and the add reads: "3" Keene gold dredge. Good condition. \$300". DAMN!!!!!! Time to start building a highbanker. You hardly ever see them in the paper.

Dredging in cold water requires special equipment. Wetsuits ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch works pretty well), booties, gloves and hood. If you don't use the hood in cold (icy cold) water, your sinuses may "*gib you some problubs breaving for a couble of days*". Wetsuits are hard to buy if you've never had one on, you don't know your size. When you get them wet, they are like a second skin. When you are ready to get out of your suit, it would be good to have help. I find it next to impossible to do it alone. My first try brought near panic. My arms behind me, the sleeves only half-way off, what a struggle – and that was the jacket! The farmer-johns were nearly as bad. A guy at the dive shop said try pantyhose. I hate to admit it, but it works. Talcum powder does too. The guy I dredge with, likes the baby smell better than the cross dressing. To each his own I guess. How embarrassing!

Some things miners need are 4x4 trucks, campers/motor homes, tire chains, camping gear, picks, shovels, trowels, pans, sucker bottles, crevicing tools, hammers, cable, come-a-longs, rock nets, poop tubes, wetsuits, weight belts, snorkels, masks, flippers, air supply, rocker boxes, ~~dynamite~~ (scratch that!), sluice boxes, dredge(s), highbankers, and the list goes on and on and on and on...

One wise fellow I know said he had come up with the cheapest and easiest way to get the most gold. BUY IT!!! He was probably right, but I have to study it and maybe I could build some! I'm still a male miner.

Treasure hunting goes hand-in-hand with gold mining. The metal detector is a great addition to any miner's equipment. I got my first one for a Christmas gift for my wife.....and myself. We went to the coast and I tried it out. It worked great – I found rusty nails, pull-tabs and bottlecaps. No coins that day. But heck, practice makes perfect! I tried it in some of the local parks when I was laid off and had time. I did alright too. Found quite a few pennies, a couple nickels, maybe a dime or two, and one small silver and turquoise ring. I had to buy new batteries – too bad I didn't find some quarters, I mighta broke even. Guess I just need more practice! Work has been too darn good these last three years and I haven't had time to practice more than once or twice. But in the meantime, I found a second detector at a garage sale. I finally was able to talk my wife into going with me. We went to a schoolyard near us. No one around, so we started to search. Kids came out of the woodwork. They wanted to help...with the finds. Time to get out of there! I still have those two detectors in the closet and maybe work will slow down, or I will retire and practice, practice, practice. There must be lots of treasure being lost every day.

A lawyer defending a man accused of burglary tried this creative defense: "My client merely inserted his arm into the window and removed a few trifling articles. His arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offense committed by his limb." "Well put," the judge replied. "Using your logic, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses." The defendant smiled. With his lawyer's assistance he detached his artificial limb, laid it on the bench, and walked out.

The next page, front & back, should be copied (may want more than one copy) and carried with you when you are dredging

NEW OREGON MINERAL TRESPASS and HARASSMENT LAW

PROSPECTING, SMALL SCALE MINING AND RECREATIONAL MINING

517.120 Definitions for ORS 517.120 to 517.133. As used in ORS 517.120 to 517.133:

- (1) “Mining” means the removal of gold, silver or other precious minerals from aggregate or a vein of ore.
- (2) “Mining claim” means a portion of the public lands claimed for the valuable minerals occurring in those lands and for which the mineral rights are obtained under federal law or a right that is recognized by the United States Bureau of Land Management and given an identification number.
- (3) “Prospecting” means to search or explore, using motorized or nonmotorized methods, for samples of gold, silver or other precious minerals from among small quantities of aggregate or ore.
- (4) “Recreational mining” means mining in a manner that is consistent with a hobby or casual use, including use on public lands set aside or withdrawn from mineral entry for the purpose of recreational mining, or using pans, sluices, rocker boxes, other nonmotorized equipment and dredges with motors of 16 horsepower or less and a suction nozzle of four inches or less in diameter.
- (5) “Small scale mining” means mining on a valid federal mining claim operating under a notice of intent or plan of operations while using whatever equipment is necessary, as approved by the notice of intent or plan of operations, to locate, remove and improve the claim. [1999 c.354 s.1]

Note: 517.120 to 517.135 were enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but were not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 517 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation

517.123 Legislative findings. The Legislative Assembly finds that prospecting, small scale mining and recreational mining:

- (1) Are important parts of the heritage of the State of Oregon;
- (2) Provide economic benefits to the state and local communities; and
- (3) Can be conducted in a manner that is not harmful and may be beneficial to fish habitat and fish propagation. [1999 c.354 s.2]

Note: See note under 517.120.

517.125 Rules to be adopted in consultation with affected parties. Any rule pertaining to recreational or small scale mining adopted after June 28, 1999, shall be adopted in consultation with affected parties. [1999 c.354 s.3]

Note: See note under 517.120.

517.128 Restricting access to open mining area or mining claim prohibited. A person may not attempt to restrict access to any open mining area or valid mining claim or to harass or interfere in any way with a person engaged in lawful mining activities. [1999 c.354 s.4]

Note: See note under 517.120.

517.130 Mineral trespass. (1) As used in this section:

- (a) “Bedrock sluice” means a wood or metal flume or trough that is permanently attached to the bedrock of the creek and is equipped with transverse riffles across the bottom of the unit and used to recover heavy mineral sands.
- (b) “Deface” includes but is not limited to altering, pulling down, damaging or destroying.

- (c) "Dredge" means a subsurface hose from 1.5 to 10 inches in diameter that is powered by an engine and is used to draw up auriferous material that is then separated in the sluice portion of the unit.
- (d) "Flume" means a trough used to convey water.
- (e) "Quartz mill" means a facility for processing ores or gravel.
- (f) "Rocker box" means a unit constructed of a short trough attached to curved supports that allow the unit to be rocked from side to side.
- (g) "Sluice box" means a portable unit constructed of a wood or metal flume or trough equipped with transverse riffles across the bottom of the unit and that is used to recover heavy mineral sands.

(2) A person commits the crime of mineral trespass if the person intentionally and without the permission of the claim holder:

- (a) Enters a mining claim posted as required in ORS 517.010 or 517.044 and disturbs, removes or attempts to remove any mineral from the claim site;
- (b) Tampers with or disturbs a flume, rocker box, bedrock sluice, sluice box, dredge, quartz mill or other mining equipment at a posted mining claim; or
- (c) Defaces a location stake, side post, corner post, landmark, monument or posted written notice within a posted mining claim.

(3) Mineral trespass is a Class C misdemeanor. [1999 c.354 s.5]

Note: See note under 517.120.

517.133 Interfering with a mining operation. (1) As used in this section, "lawful mining operation" means any small scale mining operation that is in full compliance with state and federal laws.

(2) A person commits the crime of interfering with a mining operation if the person intentionally:

- (a) Interferes with a lawful mining operation; or
- (b) Stops, or causes to be stopped, a lawful mining operation.

(3) Interfering with a mining operation is a Class C misdemeanor. [1999 c.354 s.6]

Note: See note under 517.120.

517.135 Exemption from crimes of mineral trespass and interfering with a mining operation. (1) ORS 517.128 to 517.133 do not apply to conduct that would otherwise constitute an offense when it is required or authorized by law or judicial decree or is performed by a public servant in the reasonable exercise of official powers, duties or functions.

(2) As used in subsection (1) of this section, "laws or judicial decrees" includes but is not limited to:

- (a) Laws defining duties and functions of public servants;
- (b) Laws defining duties of private citizens to assist public servants in the performance of certain of their functions; and
- (c) Judgments and orders of courts. [1999 c.354 s.7]

Note: See note under 517.120.