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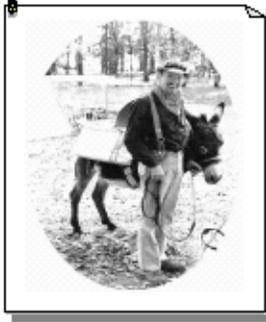
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WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

DECEMBER 2004

**No Club meeting this month.
See you in January!**

President's Report

Well we made it through another year. I have been president or vice president for four years now. It is time for me to take a break and let someone with new ideas and vision take over. Paul Messersmith is going to be a great president. I will still be around for questions and I will lead the workshop in May. We have a new batch of officers and we look forward to an exciting new year.

The Rickreall Rock and Gem Show is coming quickly on April 15-17. We need to start thinking now if we want to have a display case. If you have an idea about what to put in a display case, come to the meeting in January with suggestions.

I am wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2005. Happy Mining.

--Dale Russell

COMMITTEES

Claims Committee

Larry Coon
Joe Garcia
Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Gary Wolf
Diane & Don Smith
Will Winslow

Events & Outings Committee

Mary Atkinson
Joe & Shirley Garcia
Don Hammer
Wes Jeffers
Gary & Trudy Schrader
Tammy Sartuche
Diane Smith
Gary Wolf
Cliff Winston

Program Committee

Diane Smith
Wes Jeffers

Website Committee

Don Hammer
Wayne Nisbet
Cliff Winston

Newsletter Editor

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Editor's Report

A special thank you to Janie Miller for taking the club copier and putting together all 150+ newsletters each month. She is doing a great job!

Volunteer Needed Immediately: We need someone in Salem to volunteer to pick up the key to the meeting room every month, or to make sure someone picks it up. PLEASE contact Juel for details.

**Items for the newsletter
due by January 1st**

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2004

Juel Russell, Secretary

- Meeting attendance sign-up sheet was circulated. There were 32 people present.

- Corrections to October meeting minutes: Paul will try to contact owner about the claim on Dad's Creek. The minutes were accepted with this change.
- Treasurer's Report was read and approved.
- Tom Q. gave a Government Affairs report. The DEQ suction dredge permit is still being debated. There is currently a third draft of the permit being circulated. Tom Q. read Tom K.'s summary of the activity so far (See article on page 5). DSL is attempting to get total control of ALL waters so they can enforce these permits. Discussion was held on the fact that it might be time for the mining clubs to join together and hire an attorney to fight this permit. \$1,000 was suggested as the amount needed to start the process. Tom Q. asked that people make pledges to donate money and place them in an IOU jar tonight. Diane pointed out that our club by-laws state one of our purposes is to reserve miner's rights, and therefore we should donate money from our treasury. After more discussion, Howard made a motion that the club join in the pursuit of legal action. Tom Q. requested an amount be added to the motion. Dale moved to contribute \$500 from the club towards the legal fund. Discussion was held whether we should contribute \$1,000 from the club. Paul seconded the motion on the table. It passed unanimously. (At the end of the evening there was an additional \$315 in pledges from club members.)
- Elections were held for 2005 officers. Paul Messersmith was nominated for President. He was elected unanimously. Gary Schrader was nominated for Vice President. He was elected with Trudy voting no. Ruth Hammer declined the nomination for Treasurer. Diane Smith was nominated. She was elected with Don voting no. Trudy reported that Marge needed to decline the Secretary nomination. Ken Haines was nominated and was elected unanimously. Tom Quintal was nominated for Government Affairs and elected unanimously to a two year term.
- Paul gave a report on the 20 acre claim on Dad's Creek. Cal Landon had offered it to us, but had not filed and it was an open claim. Tom Q., Paul and Gary went to Roseburg to file notice on the claim. They also found another 40 acre claim which was open. They filed a notice on that claim as well. The brothers who allowed that claim to lapse are filing an appeal to try to get it back. Do we want to file the claim and risk having it overturned on appeal? It will cost the club \$165 to file the claim and it is not refundable if overturned on the previous owners' appeal. We can work the claim until the decision is made. Steve made a motion to file on the 40 acre claim (WVM #3) which passed unanimously. Don made a motion to file on the 20 acre claim (WVM #2) which passed unanimously. Paul will also file an amendment on WVM #2 because the filed location is off.
- Paul gave a report on the WVM #1 outing on 11/6. There were 6 people present.
- Discussion was held on whether we should combine the Events and Outings committees into one committee since most people do not know the difference and most people are on both. Diane moved to combine the committee which passed unanimously.
- People were reminded to sign up for the Christmas Potluck and to bring a gift under \$10 for the gift exchange.
- Paul is working on updating our library including adding a packet with forms and instructions on acquiring a claim. Dale has this information in his handouts for the workshop.
- The GPAA Show is 3/12 & 13. Trudy will send in the registration along with Lane County Miners. We will again rent a corner booth. Mary is still trying to get a refund for last year's registration because we helped with setting up.
- We need to buy gold for bags of sand and nuggets for the coin drop. Louie made a motion to buy 25 nuggets which passed unanimously. Gary W. made a motion to buy gold for bags of sand which passed unanimously.
- Trudy reminded people that dues are due for 2005.
- At the January meeting Gary S. will be sharing his metal detecting treasures from 2004.
- The meeting was turned over to Wes for the raffle.

**The Night Before Christmas
By Beth Wood**

"T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
AND DOWN ON THE CLAIM,
NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING, NOT MINER NOR GAME,
THE POKES WERE ALL HUNG BY THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE,

IN HOPES THAT ST. NICK WOULD PUT GOLD DUST IN THEIRS;

THE MINERS WERE NESTLED ALL SNUG IN THEIR BEDS,
WHILE VISIONS OF NUGGETS DANCED IN THEIR HEADS,
WHEN DOWN BY THE RIVER THERE AROSE SUCH A CLATTER,
THEY SPRANG FROM THEIR BEDS YELLING,
“WHAT’S THE MATTER?”

ACROSS THE ROOM JERRY FLEW LIKE A FLASH,
TRIPPED OVER HIS DOG,
LANDED ON HIS — (oops, better not say that) (WITH A CRASH),
RIGHT BEHIND HIM CAME CLARENCE AND GARY,
THROWING OPEN THE DOOR IN A GREAT BIG HURRY;

WHEN WHAT TO THEIR WONDERING EYES SHOULD APPEAR,
BUT A MINATURE SLEIGH AND EIGHT GOLDEN REINDEER,
HE WAS SCURRYING AROUND SO LIVELY AND QUICK,
THEY KNEW IN A MOMENT THAT IT WAS ST. NICK;

THEN HE WHISTLED AND SHOUTED
AND CALLED THEM BY NAME,
“HAY ! MIKE, EVELYN, —, —, CLAUDE AND DOTTIE,
THEY WONDERED, WAS HE JUST MAKING FOLLY?
NO, HE WENT ON- “HEY, HENRY AND DONNA, CHUCK AND DON,
BETH AND JERRY, ____ HURRY, HURRY!”

THEY DASHED AWAY, DASHED AWAY, DASHED AWAY ALL,
JUST TO SEE HIM FLY OVER THE MOUNTAIN TALL,
HE WAS DRESSED ALL IN GOLD, FROM HIS HEAD TO HIS FOOT,
AND HIS CLOTHES WERE ALL COVERED
WITH GOLD DUST AND SOOT;

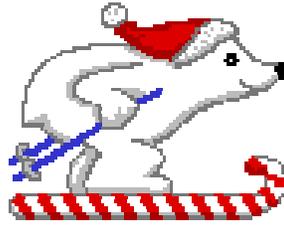
HIS EYES HOW THEY TWINKLED! HIS DIMPLES HOW MERRY!
HIS CHEEKS WERE LIKE ROSES, HIS NOSE LIKE A CHERRY,
THEY WAVED AND SHOUTED, AT THAT JOLLY OLD ELF,
THEN EACH MINER STOPPED AND GRINNED TO HIMSELF;

A SMILE ON THEIR LIPS, A TWIST TO THEIR HEADS,
SOON GAVE THEM TO KNOW THEY HAD NOTHING TO DREAD,
FOR ALL OVER THEIR CLAIM, ALL OVER THE GROUND,
WERE BIG, SHINY, NUGGETS— GOLDEN AND ROUND;

THOES MINERS JUST STOOD AND GAZED AT THE SIGHT,
THEY MIGHT HAVE STAYED THERE ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT,
‘TIL THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN
WHEN ONE SHOUTED WITH MIGHT,
(YIPEE) HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT.

Dedicated to the Willamette Valley Miners in their quest for gold!

Merry Christmas



In the next few newsletters you will be introduced to our new club officers. This month's introduction is to our new president, Paul Messersmith. Paul writes the following about himself:

After graduating from Berwick HS in Pennsylvania in 1957, I worked for four years up and down the East coast and then spent the next 12 years in college, either as a student or as an instructor, graduating with degrees in geography and geology. From 1973 until my retirement in 1998, I was in and out of public school teaching, information management positions, and business. Oh how I love being retired!

During my 2nd year of retirement I built a cottage on the Alsea River and while watching TV at off times, I began watching the "gold shows." My interest peaked when a friend of mine took me panning on Qville creek and I found my first gold. It soon became a passion! My wife Susan and I celebrated our 38th anniversary this summer and of course, she thinks I'm nuts.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoy our large garden, our cottage on the river, our home, our three cats, fishing for those fall Chinook, and our "free time." She spends most of her time on genealogy and family history. Oh yes, I do all the cooking. I used to golf a lot but I changed the "F" to "D" – funny how that works! Earlier in my youth I played and sang in several rock n' roll bands (performed before 4000 screamers hosting a Gary US Bonds and Brian Highland concert), bowled (200+ scratch bowler) and otherwise just worked.

It wasn't long after I attended my first WVM meeting that I knew I'd found a "home." I felt that I not only wanted to belong but wanted to make both a commitment and hopefully a contribution to the club. So even though I've only been a member for less than a year, I feel very much at ease with the entire group and look forward to helping the club grow and prosper.

HOT SPOTS FOR COIN-SHOOTERS

There are plenty of places to coin-shoot other than your local park or beach. Places that you never thought about where you can search for coins, including: old wash houses and laundromat sites, abandoned or partially abandoned mobile home parks, old firehouses and firehouse sites, long-abandoned canneries, old barns, the "haunted house" in your town, old orchards, covered over ponds, gravel pits, logging camps, riverboat landing sites, ship yards and old railroad beds. Don't overlook old saloons, general stores, hotels and blacksmith shops or sites where they once stood, either! Let's take a look at a few of these choice locations for coin-shooters.

Old wash houses and coin-operated laundromat sites are among the best places to search for coins. Coins were used in washing machines, dryers, detergent dispensers and vending machines. Coins aren't the only things you'll find. Sometimes you'll find jewelry and folding money, too.

No, you can't just walk into a coin-operated laundromat and start coin-shooting because everyone will claim that the coins you find belong to them. What you're looking for is an abandoned laundromat or a laundromat site where a laundromat once stood. Search below the floors in a standing laundromat or the ground where one once stood.

However, old wash houses, the kind you find on farms, are good places to search, too. At farm wash houses, laundry rooms and even laundromats, those who prepared the laundry for washing usually shook pants and turned them upside down to remove mud and gravel. Coins may have dropped out unnoticed or were set-aside and forgotten. They're easily found with a metal detector!

Have you ever thought about old orchards as a place to coin-shoot? Probably not, but a lot of work goes into keeping an orchard in shape, including: pruning, application of pesticides, frequent inspection by kids looking for ripe fruit and by packing house inspectors, the removal of weeds and the trapping of gophers and moles by farm workers and the picking of the fruit. Often times, outhouses (where coins were lost) were located in orchards for the convenience of farm workers and pickers. Once in a while, you'll find a lawn where an orchard once stood. There are plenty of old coins to be found in that lawn, particularly if the house was built during the last century. One other thing you'll find in old orchards is metal buttons as men and boys in heavy fall coats forced their way through branches to pick fruit and tore buttons off their garments. Anyone who has ever picked apples knows what it's like!

Old ponds, those that have been covered over, produce some of the oldest coins you'll ever find! However, many are buried deep, calling for a larger than normal search coil to be used, say a 12 1/2 inch coil. Don't overlook the possibility that folks probably tossed coins in the pond for good luck or to make a wish!

Abandoned schools or sites where schools once stood are great places for finding coins. Those eerie school bells of days long-gone are faintly ringing, beckoning all coin-shooters. You'll have to research the locations of old schools in books like Ghost Towns of the West by William Carter. The sites of more modern-day schools can be found by studying county maps.

We're all attracted to old barns for one reason or another. Perhaps your spouse is a painter or one of your children is a photographer; none the less, old barns, both inside and outside, hold a special place in the hearts of detectorists. Not only can you find old coins buried just below the surface in barns and barnyards, you may find a treasure cache buried in the barn or nearby. It was a commonplace for men to hide their cash during the Great Depression years and all through the last century when banks were unreliable. Look under the foundation stones for treasure caches hidden in pots. Finally, don't overlook the fact that many farmers buried coins and folding money under fence posts. A good detector will find these caches!

What about gravel pits? Men work at gravel pits as laborers, heavy equipment operators and as truck drivers at gravel pits. They usually put on a pair of coveralls before starting work. During the lunch break, they loose coins when they reach inside their jeans for money to pay the lunch wagon owner. Then, too, water often fills old gravel pits creating good fishing holes. Fishermen loose coins for lots of reasons. Next time your spot a gravel pit, stop and try your luck at coin-shooting!

Who hasn't dreamed of returning to the days of the Old West? Well, you can, sort of. During the glory years of the Old West, 100s of railways were developed for mine operators. Left behind, after the tracks were ripped up during World War II, were the railway beds. You can find a fortune along old railroad beds! The railroad builders became aware of a large amount of rip rap (large rocks) available from the mines where waste rock was piled up in great heaps. The waste material was offered at no charge to the railway builders if they would just remove it.

The railroads used the rip rap for the building of railroad beds, often miles from the mines, and to extend their line across barren, sandy desert lands where no such material was available. Then too, mine dump rip rap was used to repair wash-outs resulting from flash floods. Here lies a golden opportunity for the detectorist. Gold nuggets and chunks of silver ore with native silver can be found along old railroad lines as well as those still in operation.

Finally, don't overlook searching the grounds around old houses in your town. Maybe it's one that's reported to be "haunted." If it's occupied, you will need permission to search. If it's vacant, the yard may be a gardener's nightmare, choked with overgrown shrubs and weeds and untrimmed trees.

Although not nearly as old as wood frame houses, mobile homes at abandoned mobile home parks and the ground around them, particularly near where a wash house once stood, are excellent places for coin-shooting, too.

[The following was written by Tom K. for the Waldo Mining District Newsletter. It was written November 5. As of this newsletter, there is now a fourth draft which is equally as upsetting. When we have the final draft we will print it in its entirety. If you have questions, please contact Tom Q.]

DEQ WRITING NEW

SUCTION DREDGE PERMIT

After waiting nearly two years since the expiration of the previous dredging permit, and only after being threatened with a lawsuit by the Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) last spring, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is now doing a rush job to get a new permit written to be in time for issuance before next summer.

After attending several dredge mining demonstrations last August, DEQ came out with an unfinished preliminary draft of the permit on September 17. The preliminary draft was distributed to a committee of miners from all over Oregon for comments and suggestions. (NOTE: Permit Committee members are representing many of Oregon's mining organizations including: Bohemia Mine Owners Association, Eastern Oregon Miners Association, Gold Prospectors Association of America, the North Bend Chapter of GPAA, the Mineral Resources Legal Foundation, Millennium Diggers, Southwest Oregon Mining Association, Waldo Mining District, Willamette Valley Miners, and representatives from the mining equipment supply industry. Collectively, the committee represents several thousand miners in Oregon.)

Put bluntly, the preliminary draft stunk! With the level of restriction it contained, most dredging in Oregon would be prohibited. After getting over the initial "shock" from reading the preliminary draft, the committee members met on September 27 to discuss the permit. The committee members then submitted comments to each other, and from those comments and at a meeting held on October 9, the committee drafted a Joint Comment, which was submitted to DEQ on October 11. Along with the committee's comments was a request for a meeting with DEQ to discuss the draft. On October 25, the committee met with DEQ in Eugene for about 3 ½ hours to discuss the permit.

At the opening of the meeting, DEQ handed out a second preliminary draft, which supposedly contained many changes based on our comments. Unfortunately, even after reading our comments, DEQ is still proposing a highly restrictive, over-regulating, unworkable, and expensive permit. The few gains we thought we had made (such as being allowed to dredge 10 feet beyond the wetted perimeter, and operation of up to a 6" dredge) were wiped out if the operation is in an Oregon Scenic Waterway or stream designated as Essential Salmon Habitat (which is 90+% of all streams in SW Oregon). What one hand giveth, the other taketh away.

Fees of \$40 to \$60 per year has been proposed. No visible turbidity 50 to 100 feet below the dredge! All fuel to be stored 25 feet from the water! Dedicated fuel spill kits must be on hand at all times! Anyone dredging more than 10 days out of 30 must move at least

300 feet! All dredging within Essential Salmon Habitat is defined as “recreational!” Fines of \$10,000 per day! The list goes on and on.

The committee has asked, individually and collectively, for real data or studies supporting or justifying the ridiculous restrictions contained in the drafts. To date, DEQ has failed to supply even one study even suggesting the need for all this!

Needless to say, the drafts out of DEQ have been so bad that most in the committee are looking into legal options to fight against any permit based on the drafts we have seen so far.

Under DEQ’s timetable, a Final Draft is supposed to be available for Public Comment sometime in November. DEQ is planning at least 4 Public Meetings (no dates set) throughout the state (including one meeting in Grants Pass). It is DEQ’s intention to have the permit approved and finalized and ready to be applied for by April 2005, and issued by June 2005.

At this point the committee feels that we must force DEQ to justify and prove the need for every and all restrictions within the permit.... Even if it means a new permit won’t be available by next summer. (NOTE: If a new permit is not issued by next summer, then only those with an extended old permit will be legal to dredge. Those with MAO’s or no permit at all “could” possibly be in jeopardy of being sued by third party interests. As whatever we get for a permit will have a life of 5 years, it is felt that it is better to have no permit for another year (while a good workable permit is written), rather than get stuck with a bad permit that makes most suction dredging impossible for the next 5 years.)

As of November 5, a meeting in eastern Oregon is scheduled between DEQ and members of EOMA to discuss the second preliminary draft. What happens next is anybody’s guess. While DEQ plods ahead with a prohibitive draft, the Permit Committee and others are burning midnight oil researching and learning laws in order to find ways to force DEQ in another direction. One big help may be the just passed new Oregon law that forces governments to pay damages (“takings” if their rules and regulations lower the value of private property (such as make a mining claim unworkable).

(over)

[NOTE: When you are out in the forest exercising your rights under the mining laws, you are NOT required to give any information what-so-ever to anyone but a lawfully designated properly identified government employee in the performance of their job. This means that if a stranger approaches you while you are working your claim, and does not identify themselves as a government official, you do not have to tell them anything. Do not give anyone your name, don’t let them take pictures of you or your operation, don’t admit to anything (such as who’s claim you are on, who’s truck is parked over there, etc). In fact you are not obligated to say anything! If so-and-so comes by and starts asking nousey questions, either totally ignore them, or tell them a story. You are not obligated to tell the truth to unidentified stranger! ...Just remember, anything you say or do could be used against you!]



An engineer, a psychologist, and a theologian were hunting in the wilderness of Alaska. Suddenly, the temperature dropped and a furious snowstorm was upon them. They came across an isolated cabin, far removed from any town. The hunters had heard that the locals in the area were quite hospitable, so they knocked on the door to ask permission to rest.

No one answered their knocks, but they discovered the cabin was unlocked and they entered. It was a simple place ... 2 rooms with a minimum of furniture and household equipment. Nothing was unusual about the cabin except the stove. It was large, pot-bellied, and made of cast-iron. What was strange about it was its location ... it was suspended in midair by wires attached to the ceiling beams.

"Fascinating," said the psychologist. "It is obvious that this lonely miner, isolated from humanity, has elevated this stove so that he can curl up under it and vicariously experience a return to the womb."

"Nonsense!" replied the engineer. "The man is practicing the laws of thermodynamics. By elevating his stove, he has discovered a way to distribute heat more evenly throughout the cabin."

"With all due respect," interrupted the theologian, "I'm sure that hanging his stove from the ceiling has religious meaning. Fire LIFTED UP has been a religious symbol for centuries."

The three debated the point for several hours without resolving the issue. When the miner finally returned, they immediately asked him why he had hung his heavy pot-bellied stove from the ceiling.

His answer was succinct. "Had plenty of wire, not much stove pipe."

Another introduction of new officers:

Gary Schrader is WVM's new vice president. He has been married for 41 years with Trudy. He has been goldmining and a member of this club for 15 years, started in 1989. Here is what he writes about himself.

I grew up in Southern MN on a small farm with a older sister and younger brother. Went to Votec for auto mechanics, where I met Trudy who was going to beauty school across the hall. Spent two years as an auto mechanic and then joined my father- in- law on road construction as a parts runner, office help, oilier and equipment operator. From there I moved on to work in the building trades as fork lift operator, mason labor and eventually became a bricklayer. Started my own business and after 3 years sold out and spent 1 year traveling around the west in a popup camper looking for paradise, which we found in Salem OR. Got a job with Davidson's masonry and retired after 19 years. We have 1 daughter, son-in-law and 2 grandsons who live in Salem. I got started mining because of the GPAA show on TV.

My favorite experience gold mining was in Paradise Valley in Alaska, nugget hunting, even if I had to miss two days getting Trudy patched up.

My favorite WVM outing is the Miners Meadow outing because it's a great place to camp and lots of fun folks around. The food isn't too bad either.



The meek shall inherit the Earth, but not its mineral rights.

--J. Paul Getty