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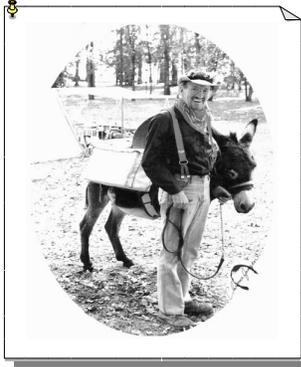
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**Please have all items for
the news letter to me by
the 25th of the month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

Feb 2008

Trip
**Metal Detecting,
Bush Park, 2-23**

President's Report Outings/Events

To EOMA (Eastern Oregon Mining Association) I have extended the morale support of our roughly 250 members in the relentless battle for our mining rights. And with this our Thank You for their efforts.

Rice Museum outing was successful, quite a few people showed up. Lots of interesting exhibits, and several new ones. While at the museum I was approached by Bea Settle - of Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club, who was interested in some info of Willamette Valley Miners, she said that she had not heard of WVM. I am sending an application as the information on the front would tell a little about Willamette Valley Miners.

Mid-Valley Prospectors (a new GPAA Chapter) has started in Albany, the meetings are on the first Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm, the address is 1214 Montgomery St. SE, Albany, 97321. It would be a good thing to have more clubs and involved members to show support for the mining industry.

Don't forget the next outings; Feb. 23, metal detecting at Bush Park. March 15, WVM1 cleanup.

Contact folks for outings this year be sure to get these in the newsletter two, (2) months in advance.

Also don't forget the 'buddy list' sign up at the meetings, the list will be next to the library material. List is to have someone go with you on mining outings. Thank you Jeff Farrand for putting this out.

If you have not already done so, put some thought in contacting your representatives (Smith & Wyden) on HB 2262 and let them know your opinion.

Needed: Someone to do the Programs, we have a list of contacts that Tom Quintal used, excellent job Tom.

Needed: a person for Claims, thank you Paul Messersmith for getting the claims in order and caught up, Paul said that he would assist/tutor if needed.

Louie Frick

In this issue

- Meeting minutes
- A brief history of Gold Rushes,
- Memories of Depression Day Gold Miners
- Winter time reading book reviews
- "The easiest way to make a decent amount of gold"
- Gold mine stocks (penny mining stocks)



Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2008

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the January, 2008 general meeting at the regularly scheduled time of 7:00PM. Meetings are held at the Marion County Fire Station, 300 Cordon Road NE, in Salem Oregon. In attendance were 37 members and 3 guests.

There were no December 2007 meeting minutes to be approved as there was no meeting in December. The Treasurers' Report was approved as read by Marshall Phares. The yearly Audit is in the process of being scheduled.

There are two outings coming up. The first is metal detecting at Bush Park on February 23RD at 10:00. The second is a clean-up at claim site WVM1 on March 15Th at 10:00. This is an important outing because not only does it help to fulfill the requirements to keep the claims active but it also makes it easier to get to and around the claims. A good turnout would be appreciated.

There is a Federal House Bill 2262 that could limit the amount of stay on or adjacent to any federal lands along with a number of other issues. Please contact Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith on these issues. DSL is also looking to change their funding by weaning there funding from the school funds. They would like to use the Consumer Price Index. This means that each year as the index goes up, so will the fees we pay by the same percentage. Contact your State Senators and Local Representatives.

The club is looking for someone to head up the Claims Committee. Paul Messersmith has done an extremely good job of redoing all the club claims and getting it organized which will make it easier for anyone to step in. Paul has also offered to assist in tutoring as needed.

There was a need to purchase an ounce of gold. There was a motion to purchase the ounce from Gary Schrader at 80% of spot which turned out to be \$704.00. The motion was approved. There needs to be a bagging committee prior to the upcoming Rickreal Show.

There was also a motion to purchase a new Blue Bowl kit from David Hefty for \$100.00 to use as the large item raffle. The motion was approved. The kit consists of the Blue Bowl, 12volt pump, bucket, tub, 3 classifiers and instructions. The tickets can be purchased at the club meetings at the raffle table.

There is a possibility of a new club starting up. It is called the Mid-Valley Prospectors and will be listed as an Albany Chapter of the GPAA. The meetings are being held on the first Sunday of each month at 1:30PM at the Allied Waste, 1214 Montgomery Street SE, Albany Oregon. The contact person is Wendy at 541-990-6214. The Willamette Valley Miners do hope to continue to increase its members but pass on this information because we believe that with more clubs and members belonging to a number of clubs, that more information can be shared. Sharing this information will help to create a better awareness of mining, which will benefit the mining community.

The Meeting was adjourned and handed over to the raffles.

Next Meeting Thurs Feb. 21th at 7:00

Club News

The **GPAA Gold Show** is March 29-30 2008. Volunteers are needed to help the set-up for the Show on the morning of Friday 28th, 2008, starting at 08:00 am to 2:00 pm. **Volunteers** are needed to man the Willamette Valley Miners booth on the 29th and 30th of March. Volunteers are needed on the 30th of March from the end of the show to help take down what was set up on the 28th. Any Questions can be directed to Wes Jeffers at 1 971 563 5080. or if Wes is not available, contact Marshall L. Phares at 503 749 1006.

Editor's Note: While attending these shows is a lot of fun and educational for all of us *Gold hounds*, actually being behind the counter such as our club booth has additional benefits. You can meet all kinds of people, hear all types of stories about gold and whatever (part of the fun is deciding on which things to believe as more or less true), help steer people to find their needs, where to go, what to do and so forth.

Often in the 35 years I have been at these shows I have been asked questions I didn't have any idea of the answer. *For Example* someone would ask "Ever hear of my great uncle Ullysess P. McGargle? He mined a lot of gold back in the depression out of a little creek up out of Rushtown by Big Pinecone Flat" Of course usually I never had heard of such a person or place so my answer was No, No, No. But I wondered why I didn't know anything about the place that sounded interesting? I was moved to taking notes about this "tip" and later researched and found the leads to little known gold sites. At times we traveled to some of these places and found some **good** gold. The point is take advantage of every opportunity to learn more about gold and back it up with additional research.

A Brief History of Gold Rushes

By the Editor, Tom Bohmker

According to history there were four major gold rushes in the Western United States each with its own style and flavor and interest to us as modern day gold enthusiasts. We are interested not only for the research to aide us plan for successful forays for gold today but often such

historical accounts are just good reading. Winter Time...*right now*... is a good time to sit back for a good gold mining read. Not only will this increase our knowledge and understanding but this will help when spring and summer mining season comes... We'll have more good direction as to how and where to go.

The **first gold rush** started with the California discovery at Sutter's Mill in 1848 and by 1860 spread from Montana to New Mexico (where the Mexicans and Spaniards had been digging yellow for Centuries). By the 1870's the rush had slowed and gold production fell drastically. Then in the 1890's to around WWI a more subdued rush was seen in the west. This **second gold rush** was spurred on by innovations in hard rock mining technique that allowed large profitable hard rock mines to be developed. Such new technological improvements such as compressed air tools, electric motors and lights, new chemical extraction processes, development of bucket line dredges, dynamite and improved roads, motor vehicles and railroads all made a contribution to this mining boom. The boom fizzled out after World War I with a stagnate gold price of \$20.00 per ounce and the rapid inflation of the 1920's. With the stock market crash of 1929 and subsequent rapid deflation allow many large gold mines to expand operations and new ones start up, hence the **third gold rush**. Soon many "Mom and Pop" placer mining operations started up throughout the west giving self employment to many of the millions of unemployed. Then in 1935 the price of gold shot up to \$35.00 per ounce and gold production from large operations employing tens of thousands of miners and thousands of small operations shot up to levels not seen since the first gold rush. This rush period quickly ground to a halt when the government closed the gold mines in 1942 shortly after World War II started.

The **fourth gold rush** started in a slow way in the late 1960's when the gold price was allowed to float. In 1979 in response to threats of oil shortages/embargos the gold price soared above \$800 briefly and settled for years in the \$290 to \$600 oz level. New huge low grade mines especially in Nevada brought world gold production to record highs...and the consumption of gold seemed to rise even faster. We are currently in the continuation of the fourth rush ...or perhaps this could be the start of a fifth gold rush.

Memories of Depression Day Gold Miners

The third period of Western US. Gold rushes covered 1930-1942, a period often times referred to as "The Great Depression". With industrial production of our country falling by 50% or more along with commodity prices at rock bottom levels the effect was leaving towns and whole regions in unequalled economic an unemployment distress. Many citizens abandoned their home towns, became itinerant workers driving in cars to distant locations and camping out looking for work. However in gold mining regions the economy was in many localities flourishing. The depression day miners of the 1930's were extremely dedicated and generally very hard working. For them gold production was much more than a taste of adventure and dream of wealth: it meant the only source of putting food on the table and gas in the Model T Ford. When I was growing up in the 1950's and 60's nearly all the adult miners were from this period and were a great insight for

me to learn about this period of gold mining. One miner, John Continni worked with me at the Guadalupe Quicksilver Mine near San Jose CA in 1969-70 and provided this memory of his mining times in the 1930's (I've tried to imitate his heavily Italian accent):

John Continni's Story

"Of course in those a days Me and my kiddo brother Nicky hadda gooda jobs as-a miners out of Jackson California at the Kennedy, the Argonaut, The Sutter and most-a- da other bigga mines. We usually worked as contract miners where we gotta paid for every foot drove drift or ton we stopped out. A lotta da time we maka \$5.00 and more a day, that was a lot in those days...and-a course-a we all take our a "bonus" (stolen high grade ore) home in our lunch pails. he towns like Jackson and Sutter Creek were just a booming all the '30s...

"Once our Momma, she want-a to can lotsa fruita so Me and Nicky take his car down to bigga farm towns towards Stockton where an Italiano guy we had worked with mining now had a fruita farm. We buy bigga crates of nice-a peaches for \$.10 each. Later drive a through da towns, mosta da stores were boarded up, notta open. People, all over, mostly guys standing or sitting around doing nothing, even the kids were too hungry or tired to play. Every freight train we saw go by had lotsa hobos hanging on ever car. The transient farm laborers, they was-a camped along the road in every wide-a spot, doing nothing. We stop for gas a little country store, more people sitting in da shade, some look'n for work, but some just a hopeless look in da eyes. The kids, they a look at us like we were some kinda 'Riconne' (Big Spenders) when we reach into our pockets and pull outa da money to buy da gas and coke cola.

Finally, we drive 25 miles back to Jacksonville and it like there is no depression. The kids are playing having fun, the men have good-a jobs, people are shopping at the stores, women are doing wash, you could hear the neighbor singing opera as she stirred the pasta sauce. The men had money to drink at the bar and we loved to gamble. All the 30's the mines on the hills above town were running day and night and we all a lived much a good. Gold brought real life to the whole a place."

Winter Time Reading Book Reviews

There is a lot to learn from the Depression day gold miners and entertaining stories to hear. Fortunately in recent decades a number of detailed memoirs have been published and are available in print and some in our Club library. Many of these accounts are easier for us to relate to as the modern place names, roads are often used. Many old '49 accounts will vaguely refer to "Joe's diggings up on a tributary of the American River", thus difficult if not impossible to exactly identify today. **Generally these memoirs and historical works are all good reads and help us get primed up for mining this spring and summer.** Some of my favorites are:

Bacon and Beans from a Gold Pan, by George Hopper as told by Jesse Coffey. The classic true story of Jesse and his wife Dot as they small time placer mined in the Mother

Lode Country from 1935-42. The mood and color of the gold country is well caught and the reader soon is sharing in the adventures. Many good tips and prospecting ideas flow by in this well written account. Hardbound, 194 pages. \$11.95 (available from Cascade Mountains Gold).

Searching for the Golden Rainbow by Miles J. Mitchell, exploration geologist. An autobiography covering 8 decades by an expert in the field who found his first gold in the early 1930's. His stories of mining, small gold operations and growing up in the gold business is not only entertaining but most educational. The son of a hard rock miner, Miles began his career in the Southern Mother Lode, later into Oregon & Nevada and still lives near his claims in Douglas County, Oregon. His exploits cover small and large placer operations, small pocket gold mines, various large underground mines and not only the stories are skillfully crafted but the geology inherent to the story is explained in a simple, colorful way. 110 pages. \$14.95 (available from Cascade Mountains Gold).

Tailings From the Golden West, by Miles J. Mitchell. The first book by Miles defies a one word description. It includes a detailed description of a previous unpublished history of a rich pocket mine and what could be called "*Mining Historical Fiction*". That is, stories about mining at certain real mines where Mr. Mitchell has practiced his Mining Engineering. Some of the characters are based on real people but the beauty is that this book is fun to read, and the reader gets a good non fiction geology and mining engineering lecture that is easy to follow. Some of the stories even have some romantic plots woven in thus Mr. Mitchell seems to have invented "Mining Romance Fiction". 110 pages, \$14.95. (available from Cascade Mountains Gold).

Ben Thomson, the Story of a Gold Miner, by Ben Thompson. This is the first person account that comes out just the way he would tell it at the campfire at a mining camp. His grandfather had been a Klondike miner and with the coming of the Depression his family became itinerant gold miners in California and some in Arizona. After some spells in construction work he finished his years mining into the late 1990's. Lots of detailed stories of how they found gold pay streaks. 40 pages. (out of print, I have a copy I will loan out to members. This is a rare book, my copy is a photo copy provided by an inmate at Folsom Prison).

The Automobile Gold Rushes and Depression Era Mining, Charles W. Miller. This is a formally written account with enough foot notes, references and detailed painstaking research to satisfy any historian with a PHD. At least the rest of us will appreciate the through review of the politics, economic policy and background historical events of the time. A number graphs show the economic benefit that gold mining provided to individuals as well as to the country as a whole. Many personal accounts of small time miners are also given. 194 pages, hardbound. \$29.95, (available from Cascade Mountains Gold).

A Mine of Her Own, Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950. by Sally Zanjani. This subject has largely been ignored by history but the fact remains that women had a very important contribution to

westward expansion and the gold rushes. Some 100 personal accounts of women prospectors are discussed. Some Women made great discoveries and became wealthy, but "most reveled in the excitement of the mining booms and took pride in surviving in the world beyond the pale." Both men and women prospectors today can be proud of these near forgotten women. Interestingly in reading several accounts I took notes to check out certain areas for high grade float with metal detectors. Well referenced and indexed, 372 pages, (Book # 36 in our club library).

"The Easiest Way to Make a Decent Amount of Gold"

None of my friends admit saying this but it happened one evening after WVM meeting was breaking up. Paul M. , Tom Q. and others I am just sure were present when someone quipped up enthusiastically, "It took quite a few years but I finally discovered *the easiest way to make a decent amount of gold* every time". Our ho hum conversations of "paring down weight on the 3" dredge" or "Did you hear about those claims for sale again down on Poison Oak Gulch?" came to halt and we stopped in mid sentence and waited expectately! Was our friend going to share the Midas touch with us? When he saw our bright faces he continued, "Every time I get that gut feeling that I just got to pack up the dredge and go out dig for gold...you know...before you actually go out and get dirty as a loser in Mud Wrestling, tired as dog after chasing birds all day and as broke as sailor at the end of leave...you take the money you would have spent on gas, groceries and beer and buy some gold from the coin dealer or some placer flake gold from Wild West Ken" (he is the club member that buys and sells gold).

We all laughed ...and yet he is probably correct, it is usually a lot easier and a least a sure fire way to collect gold. The trouble with this kind of gold acquisition plan is that is a lack the adventure, fellowship, satisfaction of panning out some specks of yellow in the sun light, and we can't feed the dream of hitting it big. Also, for some of us married guys, the wife may *want* us out of the house once in a while. I have seen women give her hubby gas money, pack up some food and lunches, point to door and sent him out prospecting so she could get ready for baby shower or something.

So buying some gold (especially when the price is in a slump) can work for a person. Later when a half pound or more is accumulated the small flake can be smelted and refined, cashed out or returned in gold bars that are easier to sell when market is peaking. We'll talk more about selling to the smelter another time.

Gold Mine Stocks (penny mining stocks)

Another "Easy Way" to invest in gold is in gold mine stock. Now remember, "easy" is referring to less hard physical work, or considerable expenditures of time with uncertainties of results. Gold Stocks are still a gamble as per any investment but allow us to make investments in an industry that we are interested in and know something about. Any book on how to invest will tell you is

advisable to stick with type of business you have some connection to.

In the 1950's and through the 1960's my Uncle Alex invested relatively small sums (\$100 or \$200) from time to time in penny mining stocks, the majority of them were Canadian and some American based companies. He had no back ground in mining but read issues of "Northern Miner" magazine and soon could talk shop with the rest of us. Stocks that he bought for \$.05 to \$.25 a share are now worth \$10.00 and more plus stock splits and handsome dividends. Uncle has passed on but his wife, Aunt Ruth at 97 still enjoys a comfortable income from this investment.

Stocks to watch this month: Bullion River Gold (www.bullionrivergold.com) symbol BLRV 52 week range \$.14 to .87 a share, currently at \$.25 a share. This is a working underground mine some 20 west of Redding CA. They mill about 100 tons a week, & recover around 80oz. of gold. There is a great potential here for high grade ores. **Dutch Gold Resources, Inc** (www.duthgoldresources.com), symbol DGRI, operates the Benton and Gold Bug Mines north of Grants Pass, OR. The mill (only licenced commercial operation in Oregon) is producing approximately 10 lbs. of gold a day. 52 week range \$.75 to \$2.10, currently about \$.85 a share. We'll talk more about these mines and try to plan a club tour. Share prices can be check out at **Scott Trade** (www.scottrade.com). They have an office in Salem on Lancaster and electronic trades are easily made from a computer.

Fine Recovery **Louie's Welding**
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For Sale

Coils for metal detectors: *Tesoro* (4 and 5 pin male); *Garret* (5 pin male) *Fisher* (5 pin male for gold Bug II and ?) I have several *Tesoro* and *Garret*, but only two *Fisher* coils. Some look new. Only \$35.00 each. Cliff's Metal Detectors, 4934 Center St.NE, Salem Ph: 503-581-3395

Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet at 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
300 Cordon Rd NE
Salem OR

