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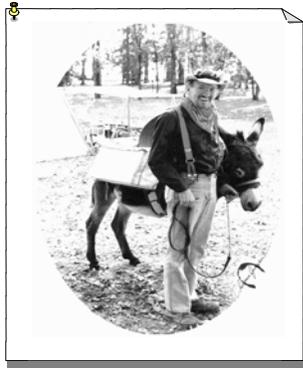
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**Please have all items for
the news letter to me by
the 25th of the month**



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

July 2008

President's Report

Next Meeting

July 17 2008
7:00 pm

President's Report

June meeting, the new members introduced themselves. We had a good turn out. (even had to bring in more chairs) The meeting was a little long, various topics of politics usually do. I apologize for the length but occasionally we get into them and we need to understand what is going on because it does affect what we do.

Vincent Creek Claim: There is a meeting with some of the higher ups of the district to maybe get some issues cleared up. Some of the claims water rights issues need to be resolved. Tom Q. and Louie F. will represent the Club.

Biggs Creek Claim: It is being deeded to WVM. We must make the decisions on it and get the paper work in order by Sept. 1. There is some dispute contesting the "quit claim" so there will be more discussion at the July meeting, I'm sure.

We are getting another "large" raffle going too and motion was approved for it to be a metal detector this time. So save up your money to buy your tickets!!

Gary S. passed a petition for signatures and comments of support that was to go to State Parks about rules on metal detecting.

California information was interesting: Joe Green relayed information of the law suits starting against all mining in CA. We need to show support and help fight because it may well end up in a state near you (OR, WA, ID, etc).

At the meeting Howard C. gave an "excellent" program on GPS use and reading, and the use of compass, watch, maps and the need of 4 satellites for accurate data. (and beware that a GPS "like" batteries)

Then he followed up with being the "excellent" director for the Miners Meadow outing. Great Job! Miners Meadow potluck was once again a good turn out -- about 50 people and this year we had more folks camping out for the whole weekend. Fun was had by all.

See you at the next events and meeting.

Louie Frick
WVM President

Also in this issue

1. Report from the Club tour of the North Fork Mines
2. What are sleeper Creeks?
3. Report on Miner's Meadow Outing at Quartzville
4. Let me tell you what happened to me at the June Meeting
5. The 100 year flood on Steve's Fork of the Applegate

Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2008

Jeff Farrand Secretary

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the June 2008 General meeting at the regularly scheduled time of 7:00 PM. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Marion County Fire Station, 300 Cordon Road NE, in Salem, Oregon. In attendance were 54 members and 7 guests.

Louie Frick asked the new members and guest to stand and introduce themselves and the members greeted them.

The meeting minutes from May were approved as read. The Treasurers report was also approved as read with one correction from the May meeting.

The purchase of the trailer for the clubs use is complete and is in the clubs possession. There is no spare tire, so a purchase of another tire will be discussed at a later date.

The club has been given a quick claim on Bridge Creek near Selma. We are receiving a third interest. There are some bugs to work out with the other two thirds interest. When more information comes available, we can let the members know. This claim brings us to nine total with a possible tenth being looked into.

One of our members was told to leave the Vincent Creek claim because of not having the proper road permit to excess the area. The member was already on his way out, so he didn't make an issue of it. Tom Quintal called Pam Alder with the Forest Service and informed her of our right to excess this claim and that we don't need a road permit, but got no where. With a few more phone calls, Tom has set up a date to meet with a few Ranger Managers for the middle of June in Eastern Oregon. The club had made a motion to cover the gas and possibly a place to stay if needed for two people to attend. This motion was approved.

Gary Schrader passed around a petition to allow Metal Detecting in State Parks.

There was a motion to purchase a Metal Detector for the clubs next Big Raffle Item. This motion was approved.

Joe Greene along with hi assistant, Claudia Wise (both members and both retired from the Environmental Protection Agency) talked about the legal issues facing dredging in California and the False reports being publicized on dredging.

Howard Conner did a presentation on GPS's and how they go together with using maps.

Outings coming up are Walker Creek on July 19th and 20th and Myrtle Creek on August 2nd and 3rd, contact Don Hammer 541-740-0375 if you have questions about either one.

Also on August 11th to the 17th Wes Jeffers will be looking for help at the Clackamas County Fair. Contact him at 503-266-5270. Please help out.

The meeting was adjourned and handed over to the raffle table.

Club Outings/Events



Walker Creek Outing: July 19-20th, dredging, panning & sluicing. This area is reached by driving east of I5 (Exit 174) on Row River Road for 15 miles then 10 miles on Sharps Creek Road. The Bohemia mining area has produced the biggest nuggets in the Oregon Cascades with finds in recent years of 1 to 1 ½ oz. Contact Don Hammer, 541-602-2223

Myrtle Creek Outing; August 2nd & 3rd, contact Don Hammer 541-602-2223

Clackamas County Fair: August 11th-17th, We need some volunteers to handle our booth and demonstrate gold panning! Contact Wes Jeffers 917-563-5080

Sunstone Hunting in Eastern Oregon: Aug. 29-Sep.1st, With the proper guidance and direction these semi precious stones can be dug out...lots of excitement Contact: Don & Diane Smith.

Beverly Beach, Sept 19-21st, It is easy to find small colors of gold on this very pretty hidden little beach that also yields nice fossils (like the shell oil sign, just not that big) Contact: Wes Jeffers 971-563-5080.

Coming gold events this season

1. **Bohemia Gold Days**, Cottage Grove, OR July 17 to 20th, includes a breakfast up on the mountain at the Bohemia Mining District, gold panning, parades, entertainment, and such in downtown Cottage Grove.
2. **North West Miner's Rally**, Oroville, WA August 15-17th. Features seminars, open dredging/panning on 7 miles of Similkameen River.

Next issue: When water levels are low & Ways to mine more gold with less gasoline

Report from the Club tour of the North

Fork Mines by Gary Schrader

6 people joined me Sat 6/7 for the mine tour up the Little North Fork. We didn't make it up to the Kinross Copper Mine site. We ran into snow about 1/2 mile from the mine (the drifts looked about 3' deep) so we turned around. We stopped at Sullivan falls for a photo op, the amount of water coming down was awesome. The Black Eagle portal has now sealed up, it is still a tunnel but we can no longer look into the mine. We stopped at the Silver Star and also looked at the old cabin site where the miner lived. We then took the hike to the Silver King, some trees were down across the trail but they didn't present any problems. I have not seen so much water coming over Henline Falls at any time in the past. We got wet going to the adit (entrance tunnel) of the Silver King so the ladies decided to wait for us outside. We didn't get into the tunnel very far and were startled by a female (wood rat?) giving birth!! how cool is that? We gave her room and moved on. There has been some testing & sampling done in several places in the recent past, also some small river rock hauled in the bottom of the tunnel, don't know who would do that or what for. On the way out the new mom was covered in the nest, only her head was visible, got wet again by the falls. The Capitol Mine was the last mine we stopped at and is down a steep & slippery drop. Not every one wanted to brave the walk but some of us made it down & back up with no mishap. This ended our adventure.

Editor's Note: This club tour is an excellent example of the benefits of club membership. A guided tour by a local mining expert of these interesting and historical places is not available on the tourist market here. However in other mining areas (Deadwood, South Dakota, Virginia City Nevada, Grass Valley, CA and certain other Mother Lode localities) the local tourism industry offers such tours...for a steep price and don't include such remote and seldom visited site our club (thanks especially to Gary Schrader and assistants) offers for free. Let's do it again next year.

All about sleeper Creeks, What are Sleeper Creeks.

Overview: So called "sleeper creeks" may not look like much, they may not have the reputation for rich past production but sometimes offer more potential today for today's prospectors. How do we find these?

My high school friend Kelly introduced me to the term "sleeper" when we went cruising on the main drag in my mothers blue 1965 Plymouth Valiant 4 door sedan. In case you are unfamiliar with the model it was the plain Jane, lowest priced economy car Chrysler made at the time and was famous for reliability and fuel economy of its little slant 6 motor. Thus this car was the epitome of a no prestige, no class and uncool car for us 16 year olds to be wanting to show off. This car had one redeeming feature though...it had the unusual feature of a factory installed light but powerful V/8 engine. At a stop light a 57 Chevy pulled up next to us...It featured a custom paint job, Hurst shifter, mag wheels in front and huge big "meats"

(drag slick tires) on the rear. The 327 V/8 engine under the hood idled high and noisily. This car was the exact opposite of what were in: The '57 had prestige, class and was very "cool" and was considered a "girl magnet" Kelly rolled down the passenger window, caught the attention of the driver who proudly had his girl friend sitting very close to him and told him a challenge "I've heard down at the A&W Drive In that your car is really a dog in a drag race" (This was intended to be an insult to any Macho kid car owner) This guy immediately answered this remark by revving up his motor...the car swayed to the right from the torque. When the light turned green he smoked off long strips of rubber off the rear tires with the motor near red line. It was most impressive sight and sound turning heads on lookers for a block around. About the time he smoked a shift into 2nd gear again burning off briefly the rear tires he could still see my mothers "little old lady's car" tail lights several car lengths ahead of him. Was he surprised! While this little Valiant didn't look the part, the light weight, spiffy little engine sling shot the car very fast off the line to about 35 mph when I would "shut down" and step off the accelerator pedal before the big hot rods would thunder by. Kelly remarked "This car is really a good Sleeper". While not showy or certainly head turning it had a measure of performance that was impressive in certain circumstances. **OK, so that what a "Sleeper Car" is what about "Sleeper Creeks"**.

The point of the previous story is this: Certain creeks and streams that never received much attention in the gold rush or from gold historians and lure may now yield excellent yields by today's gold miners. They are Sleeper Creeks.

Various streams in southern Oregon are well known to have been rich in placer gold and off mentioned in literature and history. Accounts are common of hoards of miners lining the banks sluicing and panning. Today the piles of tailing, stacks of boulders and other evidence of heavy hand mining often mark such sites signifying intense activity. Records indicate that some of the stream channels were worked 3 times with each time enough gold to pay quite handsomely. Every so often in such places gold dredgers and high bankers will find a crevice or section of virgin pay dirt somehow overlooked by the old timers and make an impressive showing. Also much gold went through the roughly made sluices and heavy flows of water from hydraulic operations and the creeks will have areas where such gold will again be concentrated. However, on some claims it is just difficult to find decent pay streaks to day. Sometimes we have resorted to prospecting with success the wrong side of the bend where the old timers didn't mine, so called "prospecting with reverse psychology", a subject of a future discussion in this news letter. With many sleeper creeks since they were not worked to the bone have pay streaks and loaded crevices where they should be. Yes, they are not as rich as the pay streaks on the rich creeks but by today's standards...they can pay quite well. Also an advantage, often since these places are in out the way locations they can be unclaimed and little visited by fellow prospectors, prospective claim jumpers or government officials.

The Story of Miller Gulch, a Sleeper Creek

Some time ago a young 20 year old customer showed up at the prospecting shop I operated looking for a dredge. He didn't have nearly enough for a new model and I didn't much in used dredges at the time. Since he was a novice prospector I enquired about if he had a place to run it and he said that when visiting at his Grandpa's farm in Southern Oregon he had heard that there was gold in the creek. Previously somewhere else he had panned out some color and flakes (with a friends help) and was sure there was lots more at Grandpa's place...but the bed rock was rarely exposed and he thus needed a dredge. Some weeks later he showed up with a 2 ½ dredge he purchased for \$90 at a garage sale. It was missing a few parts and such and I helped him get it together. This was not a great unit with heavy metal floats made of galvanized steel 1' diameter tubes (pointed at both ends) all riveted and soldered together. The power jets was awkwardly placed making it difficult to prime in shallow water. He showed me on the map where his Grandpa's ranch was, a place called Miller Gulch. While near the Rogue River it was in an area not known by me to carry any color. Of course the rule of thumb is that every creek 30 miles east of Grants Pass and 50 miles west has a chance of at least having an occurrence of gold. However I tried to tactfully suggest if he didn't do well at Grandpa's place there were some open areas on the Rogue near by that always gave a decent tail of gold in the pan. I didn't give this novice much of a chance on a questionable place. Two weeks later he showed back up at my place after his first weekend mining. **Was I wrong!** The only thing correct in my advice and concerns was about the dredge. It was hard to work it in this tiny little creek and kept jamming up. It was a hard place to learn the ropes of dredging, selecting where to work, moving the big rocks and such. I enquired if he had found some gold. He said he had and thought he had done well. Bear in mind that many novices cannot judge how much a little splatter of flakes in a pan might actually weigh.

The baggy containing the gold made a solid clunk on my glass counter top. The gold looked very rough, close to the source with many pieces containing quartz. There must be pocket deposits close by on the hill sides. The biggest nuggets were in the 3 dwt to 5 dwt size (20 dwt = 1 troy ounce) and there dozens in the small raison size chunks. Even the fines were rough, coarse edge small little blobs. I was most impressed and encouraged him to continue at Grandpas. He sold me some of the nuggets at a fair price which I added to my collection. He had stumbled upon a "Sleeper Creek". This fellow had little appreciation how well he had done for minimal effort and very limited experience. Obviously few if any persons had done any serious mining on this gulch in a long time. Also, the water flow is minimal in summer further hampering mining.

So I wanted to find out more about this Miller Gulch. A quick search of the Standard references show it to be a small tributary of the Rogue River about 2 miles east of the town of Rogue River just across the river from Valley of Rogue State Park. The next tributary to west is Footh Creek and the east is Galls Creek both known to be major producers. Footh Creek had several large successful bucket line dredges that operated in the 1930 into the 1940's and both drainage areas are known to have lode mines and pocket mines located on them. A gulch that

drains the western side of the divide between Miller Gulch and Footh Creek is named "Gold Gulch". This is a good sign for gold occurrences. In this case the key was proximity to gold bearing streams and geologic units that were known for primary lode deposits. Check out small creeks in the area of known gold producers.

Other Sleeper Creeks: I did some consulting work try to evaluate the Big 4 Placer mine on West Pickett Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River which is just west of Merlin, OR. People told me "there isn't much color up on Pickett Creek". However there was a moderate hydraulic mine which dumped it's tailing into W. Pickett Creek. Below this old hydraulic mine there was considerable flood gold and the crevices and inside of corners proved to be quite rich with nuggets to 1 dwt. Even local miners were surprised when we showed them our gold.

I got thinking what about the other creeks that come off the same range of hill. Do they carry gold too? The research I did indicated that they were prospected in gold rush days but were never "mining creeks" with sustained production or interest. I did a little panning on Shan Creek and Limp Creek to the South of W. Pickett but didn't find a color. There was lots of private land and soon I was on to a new project elsewhere. However, a miner I later got to know leased some private ground on Shan Creek in 1980 and dredged to bed rock and very quiet about it. Years later I ran into his son and got the full report that some sweet spots were found and he grossed some 70 ounces one summer.

In the last issue we talked about Dad's Creek where this club has a claim. It always gave some nice little gold here and there until this acquaintance of mine dredged out the big hole below the one water fall and took out about 200 ounces with a 4" dredge in the late 1970's.

A Possible Sleeper Creek: someone should check it out: At the Roseburg Gold Show an older guy with a cane asked me if I knew that there was gold on 12 Mile Creek near Camas Valley on the Coquille River. This is south and west of Roseburg on Highway 42 (Coos Bay-Winston Highway). I had been through there and camped in the area a couple of years back on the way to gold mining at the south coast but didn't prospect in this area. This fellow told me that at a logging camp a couple of miles up 12 Mile Creek back in the 40's and 50's where he was raised there was a logger who did weekend sluicing and had a lot of gold to show people. Of course I hear stories like this very frequently, usually 3rd or 4th hand...what to believe? Yes there could be a little color here and there but did he really find a decent amount? I believe the man was not just trying blow smoke with me.

I went to Microsoft Terra Server map base and noticed that the head waters of 12 Mile creek is the north side of the drainage separating it from the West Fork of Cow Creek. This portion of Cow Creek is very remote and is known to have placer and lode deposits at it's headwaters around Mt. Bolivar. A gold belt continues from this point s westerly towards the Rogue River. Could there be a less known northeasterly extension of this gold belt to the 12 Mile Creek drainage? Maybe. I think

someone should check this out, combine it with some other gold excursion this summer and let us know.

Report on Miner's Meadow Weekend Outing by Trudy Schrader

Miners Meadow turned out to be a great weekend; you just can not believe the Weather People. Had a little rain Friday night/Saturday morning, just enough to make nice sounds on the camper roof when waking up and a few small showers before the group starting moving around. Just to be on the safe side Gary Schrader rented a 20 x 40 ft cover which worked great to get out of the sun and heat.

Friday we had a surprising number of campers come in early (they usually do not show up till Friday night or Saturday morning) so I started worrying about space for the later ones to camp. No need, we had some spots left but not many. We even had people camping outside the gate Thursday night.

Saturday Howard Conner started some of the games before the potluck so we could get them all in. We had metal detecting & GPS caching. There were also cribbage games going and a tossing game I do not remember the name of, but it should be included in next years games for prizes, Boyd and Kathy Puckett brought it. I do not have a list of who won the prizes this year but Howard will let us know later I guess. Wes Jeffers started the duck race after the potluck and it got a little out of hand. The water was running high, fast and very cold so out of 31 ducks we only captured 15. The rest were on the way to the lake. Wouldn't you like to see the faces of the people fishing as one of them floated by?

The Potluck was great and way too much good food to be able to try everything. Don Hammer did his great deep fried turkey and Gary Schrader had his meat cooker eating up charcoal by the bags full frying the hamburgers and hot dogs. One person (Tom McMullen) from the Willamette Valley Dutch Oven group came to show people how to cook Dutch (he said he wanted to come back, as he had so much fun and the people were a great group) but we also had Boyd and Kathy Puckett using 3 black pots in the fire pit and Trudy Schrader with 2 black pots going. Gary & Trudy also did doughnuts Saturday morning and Sunday they did Monkey bread for who ever wandered over to their camper. (All in the Dutch Oven). The head count of people came some where between 50 to 60 people. Little hard to count with everyone heading back and forth to the food like ants.

We had great guitar playing and singing by the campfire both nights. Friday night Jim (Perkey?) did a solo act and Saturday Gary Wolf joined him with the help of Jims wife holding the music, they played well together.

We had enough hamburgers left over so Sunday night the people still camping had an impromptu potluck with everyone bringing leftovers from iceboxes and refrigerators. Just about as good as the first potluck. Don Hammer cooked the burgers on his little gas grill as the big grill had been packed up.

There was some gold found but not too many people braved the cold water. Trevor has a tail to tell about his finds. I bet you can get him to talk about it at the meeting.

Thanks to all the people that came and the ones that helped with the setup and cleanup. Next years outing is already on the books and the space rented for June 25-29.

Let me tell you what happened to me at the June WVM Meeting! By Jeff Farrand

Let me tell you what happened to me at the June meeting. I purchased three raffle tickets. One ticket was for the gold nugget and the other two were for the other items on the table. As luck would have it, my ticket was the first one drawn. I chose a Stanley coffee thermos. I have always wanted one of those nice looking Stanley coffee thermoses I see other construction workers come to work with but didn't want to spend the money on one. I have always just taken two coffee mugs to work, the second one being cold by the time I got to drink it (cold coffee isn't so bad). Talking to Louie Frick after the drawing he told me that he had two of the Stanly thermoses and only had a need for one so he brought it to the raffle.

My second ticket was drawn a little later and I picked a classifier, the size of which I didn't have prior to the drawing. Wow! Two great items with only a three dollar investment, what a great deal! No gold nugget but we can't win them all.

The point is, if you have something of no use to you, it may be of use to someone else, so bring it to the table. It could be just what someone wanted and it helps the club in raising funds.

The 100 year flood on Steve's Fork of the Applegate

Recently I met a miner in Albany that has worked Steve's Fork of the Applegate for 20 years. He has 3 different sized dredges and from time to time by moving big boulders they would find nice heavy gold in the shallow stream. As many well mined creeks it is lots of test holes to find a good spot and even rarer is to find a spot never worked before (a virgin spot). Some years ago there was severe flooding and high water. The experts called it a 100 year flood, locals at least agreed it much worse than others for decades. What this miner noticed the next summer was there were spots where the flood ripped out 200 to 300 year old trees along the banks and sent them down into new log jams. **Did you figure out the hint ?** This means a chance to find virgin spots the old timers never worked as gold mining commenced in the early 1850's in this region. Yes, they found much larger gold and some rich spots that nature had been hiding all these years.

We Need Some Help!

Member Wes Jeffers is looking for volunteers to staff our club booth at the upcoming Clackamas County Fair at Canby, OR this August 12-17 th (Tuesday – Sunday). The hours of operation are 10-10 but if you just wanted to spend a few hours of one day that would be fine. Do you have some gold you'd like to show off? Perhaps you enjoy sharing your mining experiences...this is a great opportunity. What is more important is educating the public about small scale mining and recreation panning. New members are recruited and you never know...we may find someone who needs to donate a claim somewhere.

Editor's comment: I have never been at this sort of public event when some one didn't come up and say something like: "When I was a kid my uncle's neighbor's milkman took us all to this place on 'Gold Fever Gulch' and wow did they dig out some nice gold". I always bring good maps with me to help identify these places and I cannot count the numerous times I heard about streams that carry gold that I was unfamiliar with. Several were so intriguing that we visited these places, dredged some good gold and filed claims on eventually.

Please wear old fashioned western type clothes/hats.

However this editor who is very fast at the draw to give mining advice refuses to give fashion advice on matching flannel shirts with the bandana, etc.

If you can represent the club please contact : Wes Jeffers 917-563-5080

Report on Tom's Mother Lode Trip

By Tom Bohmker

On and off for 20 years I was able to take short term leases on a classic pocket mine near Columbia/Jamestown in California's Mother Lode Country. The property has yielded hundreds of high grade pockets of jewelry grade crystalline gold ranging in size from 1/2 oz to several thousands of ounces each. During recent decades the incline shaft, hoist, pumps, compressors, drills, ore cars, powder magazine and numerous related items were on hand in a "turn key" set up. However in the last few years as the owners and principles approached mid 80's and into the 90's they decided to sell their portion. It was offered to me but I am not in a position to buy and work it at this point in life. However a mining friend was most interested and put earnest money on it. However in the four years since my last visit the mine has not had the tender loving care of maintenance it once had.

Here is an abbreviated report from my hard rock trip to CA this past week. Any mining trip can have unplanned difficulties of a technical nature. We do our best, and sometimes we cannot solve them in order to find good gold...but we don't get discouraged!

"All I came home with a few Imm chunks of rough gold from a couple test pans out of one of the dumps..."

As soon as we arrived we saw that there were some technical problems to the place: The power lines to head frame at the main shaft were knocked down by a storm....the wires were missing insulation....need 300' of # 8 copper line....Someone had stolen the magneto and carburetor to the hoist engine (maybe it is a Buddha brand, hard to find parts and expensive if available)...perhaps we'll install a new Briggs & Stratton motor eventually...The air compressor was missing a few engine wires and needed a new battery...there were rotted ties and supports at end of dump....The last work on shaft maintenance 2 years ago they let a big rock slip down the shaft...it wiped out a bunch of the wooden ladders on the 45% incline shaft and damaged some of the lighting system. Some of the ties in main shaft need replacement.

The timbers around the main shaft collar needed replacing, we temporarily propped up the peeling hanging wall of the incline shaft the best we could. Several stulls and lagging had broken and were hanging down.

Still, I wanted to pump out the shaft and show the prospective buyer the good ore at the bottom, a pile of muck that probably has some high grade in it I left some years ago. Also this is where the black slate cuts the vein (traditionally the relationship of big pockets, one pocket just 30 feet away yielded some 800 oz. in 1942). Every blast down here yields at least some high grade. I hooked up a generator set we brought along to the electric control panels to power up the pump. The electric panels were full of big spiders and wasps, they bit my hand and the ants came up by legs and chewed on me....however the pump worked and for 2 hours the water flowed out and still had 20' of shaft to dewater. I filled up the water tanks at the surface and was just setting up a sluice box to sluice some old tailings that pans rough bits of gold when the pump stopped pumping. I had to go to town and buy an electrical tester. Wiring was OK. We tried pulling the pump. It was tangled with bell wire, water line, air hose and electric line down under 20' of water at the bottom of main shaft After some effort (hanging on a track rail on the 45% slope of the shaft floor of rubble on slick rock this is not easy), we finally pulled the pump attached to 150' of 2" plastic pipe. The pump was OK but bearings in the motor were fried. So much for dewatering and taking out ore from the bottom of the shaft. We ended up drilling with an electric hammer drill 3 -4' deep on some surface vein exposures that don't carry gold hardly at all being a ways from the slate formation thus less chance to find a pocket...and found zip.

One afternoon in 100 degree full sun my sons Josh and Tim started clearing debris blocking a small shaft collar we had opened some 15 years ago. At dark they wanted to "go exploring" in some different mine workings we had never explored before. They went down a steep open 30' deep stope to day light huge hole on a parallel vein some 40 feet and down hill from main shaft collar. At the bottom they crawled in a drift. After following some "coyote" holes up wards underground to a stope which came within a few feet of the surface there was a declining coyote hole whole which cork screwed down following a trace on a vein down underneath the above mentioned working and to one of the lowest levels in the mine area. Waiting at the open stope in the dark I suddenly heard the generator set at the main shaft start up! They had found a mostly caved in crosscut tunnel to the lowest stope on a different vein system on the main shaft. They crawled some 25 feet on their bellies, head side ways, pushing the hard had in front of them and came out just above the flooded lower main shaft, then came up the main shaft pulling them selves up on the rails (much of ladder is missing or rotten). I really should have surveyed this new discovery and worked it into my underground map, but....maybe next time. They're comment was "This little hill is pure Swiss cheese under the surface". "Those old miners must have really found a lot!"

On the way home we stopped and saw Jerry (about 85 now) who had worked this pocket mine from 1962 through the late 1990's including the time when we leased the place. He reminded us that one of the upper drifts off the main incline shaft had been hot with gold when they drove it in the 1970's and we should pull the tracks and under hand stoped some of it out. Perhaps someday we'll be able to check this out.

We made scores and scores of quartz/pan tests....one or two showed tiny colors (under 20x magnification). That is the nature of this mine. It never had a mill. They would only produce 1/2 to 2

5 gallon buckets of Ore per pocket. They would pick out the large specimens of crystalline gold and would mortar the rest up. When you get closer to a pocket you see little chunks in pan tests, then start seeing gold in the quartz, then large leaves of crystalline gold. One pocket I found some years ago was the size of a fist, surrounded for at least 10 feet of blank vein quartz...no color... until I drilled into the pocket. I sold over a \$1,000 worth of specimens (when gold was \$400 oz) out of it and still have a couple nice pieces.

Needless to say with more work to be done on the in structure ...The prospective buyer decided not to buy the place...

We never said it was going to be easy...If it was easy gold would be worth \$.50 an ounce!

Conclusion: My sons and I had a great time...We'd do it again. It is nicer to come home with some high grade gold...but we were rich with adventure.

<p><i>Fine Recovery</i> Portable Mining Equipment</p> <p>CUSTOM MANUFACTURING</p> <p>* e-mail; mining@teleport.com</p>	<p>Louie's Welding 1307 Talbot Rd.S.E. Jefferson, Or. 97352</p> <p>Louie Frick Owner 541-327-1210</p>	
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	<p>METAL DETECTORS AUTHORIZED DEALER</p> <p>CLIFF WINSTON OWNER</p>
<p>Cliff's Discount Detectors 4934 Center St. NE Salem, OR 97301</p>	<p>503-581-3395 Ph cliff4934@msn.com</p>

<p>Oregon Prospecting Supplies & Rita's Relics</p> <p>Dredges & Sluice Boxes: Dry Washers Power Sluices: Whites Metal Detectors: Keene Dealer: Gold Pans</p> <p>541-367-2237 gold2@centurytel.net</p>	<p>1045 Main Street Sweet Home, OR 97386</p> <p>Toll Free 866-367-4061 www.oregonprospecting.com</p>
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<p>armadillo <i>Mining Shop</i></p> <p>DREDGES • DIVE EQUIPMENT MINING SUPPLIES • DETECTORS</p> <p>THERE'S NO SALES TAX IN OREGON MAIL & PHONE ORDERS WELCOME 541/476-6316</p> <p>2041 N.W. VINE • GRANTS PASS, OR 97526</p>	
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<p>ALLEMAN</p>  <p>Detector Sales 769-1914</p>

<p>Willamette Valley Rocks Lapidary Equipment & Supplies</p>	
<p>Bill Staggborg Owner Dealer: Covington Engineering & Ameritool-Inc. Rough Opal, Jasper & Agate Opal Jewelry & Finished Opal</p>	<p>541-653-8750 www.willamettevalleyrocks.com stores.ebay.com/Willamette-Valley-Rocks 1400 Candlelight Dr. #227 - Eugene,OR 97402</p>
<p>Discounts for club members</p>	

Cascade Mountains gold

Est. 1968

Mining Consultants, Publishers, Fisher & Falcon detectors

Mining Books & Supplies

Tom Bohmker (503) 606-9895

Classifieds

Wild West Gold Sales

I Buy & Sell Gold nuggets and Fines no amount is too small. email: wrtckenhaines@comcast.net
Ph: 541-791-9986

For Sale

Wet Suit "Farmer John" style, *Brand new*, never worn. Medium Sized, fits 5'4" to 5'9", 130 to 170 lbs. Includes weight belt...\$150 or offer, 541-926-8153,

For Sale, Hookah System

Hookah pump w/ engine: A T-80 compressor mounted on a base plate with pulley guard and carrying handle powered by a 3.5hp Briggs-Stratton (cast iron sleeve), comes complete with a 50' roll of Keene air hose and a regulator harness (no regulator). It is very portable; weight about 38lbs., runs 6-8 hours or more on a gallon of gas, now you can clean those deeper crevices. **All new, never used . \$580 Tom @ 503-606-9895**

Lost and Found Dept

Lost- a dry suit hood left behind at the recent Miner's Meadow Outing. If you know where abouts contact 541-401-3718

Suction Nozzle for Sale

Recently I organized my mining storage and found a used but little worn Keene 2 1/2 suction nozzle. This is great for working shallow water, connects to 1 1/2" fire hose. \$49.00

Tom at 503-606-9895

Willamette Valley Miners

PO Box 13044
Salem OR 97309-1044

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

