

Officers

President

Louie Frick
541-327-1210
mining@teleport.com

Vice President

Steve Landis
503-999-8876

Secretary

Jeff Farrand
503-371-3652

Treasurer

Marshall Phares
503-749-1006

Government Affairs

Richard Morganstern
503-378-0987
rit57@yahoo.com

Committees

Claims

Bob Howell

Gordon Davis
Howard Conner

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Howard Conner
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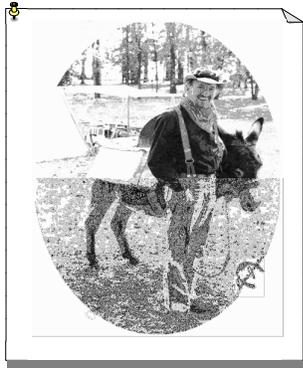
Website

Don Hammer
Trudy Schrader
Diane Smith

Newsletter Editor

Tom Bohmker
541-917-4249
E mail :
cascademountaingold@gmail.com

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



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

December 2008

President's Report

Next Meeting

Dec. 6
Christmas Party

President's Report

Not a bad turnout for the November meeting. We had a couple new members and some guests too. Thanks all for coming.

Tom Quintal gave another good and informative report on 1866 and 1872 Mining Act. This will soon be on the web site and should be very informative and interesting on your mining rights.

I'm hoping to take my dredge down to the next mercury testing in Southern Oregon and looking forward to see what is involved.

Our new officers were elected: President - Paul Messersmith
Vice President - Eben Ray
Secretary - Karen Phares
Treasurer - Lloyd Bridgmon

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !

Also new people on some other volunteer positions: Debbie Farrand - Newsletter Editor
Gary Schrader - Raffle Table

THANKS !

Howard Connor gave a VERY informative report on outdoor survival skills. Thanks for filling in, as the person who was going to give the talk was ill and couldn't make the meeting.

Paul M. has a good idea on an "information outings guide" for the Club. Look for it coming soon.

Christmas Party time is here. Dec. 6th, a Saturday is the day and at the usual Fire Station meeting place. If you can help setup please come at 11am and/or the party starts at 12 noon (ish) with potluck, gift exchange (around \$5.), and Bingo. This is a fun way to end the year as a "mining family".

Seasons Greetings to ALL !

Louie Frick, president WVM

Also in this issue:

- *Coming events, Outings*
- *How to Handle Cabin Fever*
- *Mining Movie Review for "Bad weather Blues"*
- *Does it help you to look at all those Rocks?*
- *Geologic and Prospecting Observations at Selected Mining Sites, East Humboldt Range, Nevada*

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2008

Jeff Farrand Secretary

President Louie Frick of the Willamette Valley Miners, called to order the September 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 40 members and 6 guests.

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

The news letter for the month of October was not sent out or it is late. We do apologize for any inconvenience. The newsletter was put into the Willamette Valley Miner's web site. Debi Farrand will be the new Newsletter Editor starting in January.

The meeting minutes from October were approved as read. The Treasurers report was also approved

There is still no decision made on the MPDS permit that is in litigation between DEQ and EOMA. This decision should be coming soon we hope. There is a lawsuit now in California to stop dredging all together until Fish and Wildlife does a study on the effects of dredging. If this takes place the study could take many years. For those who want a Public Service Questionnaire, we have it on the web to print.

The new officers were elected into office for 2009.

President – Paul Messersmith

Vice President – Evan Ray

Secretary – Karen Phares

Treasurer – Lloyd Bridgman

The Raffle table will be run by Gary Schrader. Congratulations and thanks go out to those filling these new positions and for the outgoing members as well.

Paul is working on a guide of what takes place at each outing to give to new members and to show as a display at outings like the Gold Show for potential members. This will also be available on the web site. Paul showed a Draft of Miners Meadow at the meeting.

The motion tabled from the October meeting to charge for replacement claim packets was addressed at the meeting. The motion was to charge \$5.00 for a replacement packet; this motion was adjusted to include a charge of \$5.00 for any additional packets. This means that new members will receive a free packet and be charged for an additional if they which to receive one. For those existing or those renewing their membership, if you require a packet, it will cost \$5.00 for each one received. The same info in the packets is available on our web site at no charge.

Louie Frick will be entering his equipment into the mercury study being done by Joe Greene and Claudia Wise. This study looks like it will take place in the spring.

The Federal appointee position for the Opal Creek area is opened up and needs to be filled if possible. This position represents the miners for this area. Gary Wolfe has been doing this for four years and his term is up. If you wish to do this, please contact Gary.

There was a motion to proceed with acquiring (being a 1/3 party to) the Briggs Creek claim. This motion was approved.

There was mention of ethanol use in the smaller engines like we use to dredge with. It was mentioned that there is a Marine Stabile that will neutralize the ethanol. There are also some gas stations that sell gas without the ethanol, just need to look around or call.

Christmas party is on December 6th at our normal meeting place. It is a potluck. Come have fun. If you can help set up, please show up around 11:00 AM. Party starts at 12:00.

Meeting was adjourned and handed to the raffle.

Outings/Events coming in 2009—

Rice Museum: January 17 - The Club outing for January is to visit and tour this fascinating display near Hillsboro. Think a rock is just a rock? You'll see beautiful and fascinating ones

like never before from around the world and locally. Also see fossils, petrified wood, meteorites, a florescent mineral show, man made crystals and more. The Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals is nationally recognized. It is the finest rocks and mineral museum in the Pacific NW and one of the best in the nation. On Jan. 17 we will meet at what is now Harbor Freight (4675 Portland Rd., Salem) just off of I-5 at 11:45am. Or you can journey on your own, need to be at the museum at 1:00pm.

Directions: To get to the museum: travel I-5 north toward Portland to exit at Hwy 217, follow this to Hwy 26 (near St. Vincent Hospital) turn west (left) toward the coast. Travel to exit 61 and turn right at the stop light onto Helvetia Rd., proceed only 100 feet, turn left on Groveland Drive (a frontage road) and travel 1.3 miles. You have arrived, turn into and down the driveway and find a place to park.

General admission : \$7. Seniors: \$6. Contact person: Louie and Joan Frick mining@teleport.com 541-327-1210

How to handle Cabin Fever

By Tom Bohmker

One of the best ways of dealing with Oregon winter time overcast/ rainy day syndrome (former called Cabin Fever by old time miners and trappers) **is not just to sit** around in a semi depressed condition, bemoan and complain about the rain, dampness, mud, dark skies etc. Often we feel better if we can accomplish something “constructive”. Of course since the common denominator of those of us in this club is **“Gold Mining”** *let’s share ideas of things we can do in the winter time “blues”* that in the least will entertain us with something to do with mining. Better yet it helps to accomplish some planning or preparation for next spring’s mining adventures and at best accumulate, repair or fabricate the equipment needed for such planned expeditions and taking a winter time mining trip.

Entertaining us with something to do with mining

Planning or preparation for gold adventures:

- Study mining books: Yes it may sound like school but it can become very interesting and helpful. We have a good collecting in our club library and we can borrow from friends (be certain to write it down, mark owner of books and get them back). Alice T. a self taught female mining company owner (who was 40ish when she became interested in Gold) read everything she could find and in a few months was operating almost as well as the life long mining addicts. She employed me on and off for years as a consultant and at time foreman of operations and often said “you have to do your homework!”
- Get in shape, work out, gym, jumper, isometrics. We know that after about 30 years of age and on it is falling down the shaft of life (from a physical point of view). However we see miner friends in their 60’s, 70’s and 80’s going strong. They have kept in shape in the off season. More likely than not they have kept their weight down, drink in moderation if at all and are non smokers. Miles Mitchell (pushing 91) is as we

speaking opening up new open pits at a newly acquired Mine in SW Oregon. Hopefully we have a detailed report on his activity soon.

- Watch some movies related to mining or the Out Door Channel on cable. (See attached Movie Reviews).

Mining related activities that get you out side a little

- *Learn to run the detector here at home:* Once I had a new Mine Lab top of the line detector. However, I did not take the time at home to get it out and learn how to tune it, work with it and get a feel for its strengths and weaknesses. Suddenly it was time to go on a pocket hunting trip to Eastern Oregon. I didn’t get comfortable with it and found zip with this fine instrument. Later my partner (with more practice at home) returned to the same diggings, same tunnels and found some nice stuff. Note: have a bucket of country rock and mineralized soil hauled from mining country to practice on.
- *Do research on net or at the county court house on claims.* I have friends that check up at the court house and by computer on a regular basis and from time to time they find excellent claims that someone let go. Once one individual acquired the limit for small miners exemption and let some of these free to him claims be sold for many thousands each. Then he accumulated even better claims. In the summer I just hate to take away precious daylight from mining to go and do the mundane paper work such searching entails. This is good winter time work.
- *Buy some pay dirt from one of those suppliers:* A work mate I know went through a period recently of gambling addiction. In a few months this fellow burned through \$ 7,000 of his meager IRA and went to meeting of “Gamblers Anonymous”. Also what helped him to overcome what he perceived as a problem was by mail ordering the pay dirt from suppliers in Oregon, British Columbia, Alaska and Georgia. Last weekend he spent much of the time panning the stuff out a home. He showed me his gold and I calculated that on my scale that the average bag contained about 50 to 75% in gold (figured at 100% of spot) of what he had paid for the cost and postage. I told him that he could do much better for his buck by purchasing placer gold from Wild West Gold Sales or gold coins from a bullion dealer. However I came to understand that this was the activity he needed for his recovery and that he has been “clean” of his gambling problem for 2 months now. For some years he has not done much gold mining but panning this pay dirt has him all fired up for this Spring. In the meantime he is having fun.
- *Fix up your equipment, refurbish and refit:* I am guilty as many others. There have been times in the Spring /summer period when finally all the chores were caught up and it was time to take off and get dredging or mining. Only then as I started to load up I remembered that some of the equipment had broken down at the end of the previous season. There were leaks, duct tape, bailing wire, chewing gum and spit repairs here and there and what’s more...I couldn’t find the all important “what-cha-ma-you-call-it” part. More than once delays in mining were made as a special trip had to be made to get that all important

part. So during this winter time...get the stuff cleaned up and ready to go.

- *Perhaps shop around for a used piece of equipment:* The prices of used equipment dredges, sluice boxes, high bankers, detectors, go way down in late fall. When the gold prices escalated in Spring of 2008 people were advertising for used dredges which about doubled in price.

Taking a winter trip:

- There was a time in my life when my kids were in school that we enjoyed most of the winter and spring school vacations with some sort of mining trips. Every March we would go dredging on open ground at Galice Oregon. It was generally "cool" but the water level was OK. After a 3 or 4 days we were done but were mentally primed up for the summer season. After that March experience each year we were toughened up and summer time mining was easy!
- Working small creeks: of course many small creeks in Southern Oregon are dry in summer but have a little water in them in winter for panning or sluicing.
- Several times I sold underground mining equipment to customers in Arizona and the customer paid for me to truck it down. We made a December family vacation and dry washed and prospected at old gold mines at Kingman, sold gold at a booth at the Gigantic rock and gem show at Quartzite, Did some panning at Virginia City, Nevada and spent a couple days at Disneyland. A week or two in the sun made the whole winter very bearable.

Movie Reviews: by Tom Bohmker

The Apple Dumpling Gang

Staring Tim Conway, Don Knotts, Harry Morgan, Slim Pickens, Susan Clark, Bill Bixby 1975

"First they blew into town...then they blew it up!"

This old Walt Disney Comedy may be the movie of choice to show the family during some rainy holiday weekend that has a mining theme to it. Three orphan children strike gold in a 1878 California Mining boom town. However the big mass of gold brings more problems than it seems to be worth and the children "give" it to bumbling nit wit out laws (Conway and Knotts) but they have to steal out the bank vault where it is held for safe keeping.

It is light and fun (there is a bloodless gigantic shoot out) and **mining connoisseurs will appreciate** the boom town sets, realistic surface mining structures and underground scenes featuring good square set timbering around a underground hoist at a winze shaft collar. Further the mass of gold is crystalline and the line "Only a bigger one was found at Brenkenridge" must refer to the Colorado mining town that produced huge spectacular pieces of world renown crystalline gold.

My sons said this was one of their favorite movies when growing up. Perhaps viewing this movie helped them so enthusiastically move for a whole winter away from their

friends, squeeze into a camp trailer and labor with me shaft sinking and driving tunnel down in the mother lode country of California searching for crystalline gold specimens. We found some nice stuff but the adventure of doing this with my sons and wife as a family affair is of much greater/ lasting value!

Grab Bag Reviews; Our library (hauled in for each meeting) for the WVM club includes a whole big box of mining videos. Some are not labeled or described. I just took some and viewed them.

Movie Review: Common Ground #T-9

This 30 minute long, very professionally made documentary by Caterpillar Equipment Co. examines the common perception about the mining industry that the public has with the actual facts. It is most educational and interesting as the story line is followed all over our country and to foreign countries. Portions of the film were made during the planning process of new mine developments, during construction and eventual production showing the careful preparation for an economical successful operation that meets desirable ecological constraints. Consideration is given to the ancients used metals and minerals to propelled civilization out of the stone age and that nearly everything we do to days involves in some way mining. The material gives excellent reasoning points to share with especially younger ones in school that get bombarded with "preserve the earth" philosophy as the point is well made that there must be a balancing of the limited supply of metal/minerals with the demand. Many scenes show the value of recycling. Of interest to me were the scenes of the development of Homestake's McLoughline Mine in the Coast Range of Northern California (see article on this "Sleeper Mine" discovery in the November 2008 issue of WVM newsletter).

Movie Review: Wilderness Alaska #T-7

This was recorded of the TV off the Discovery channel. It features stunning views of the land and animals of Alaska as well as the coastal estuaries. Scenes are recorded in areas that are seldom visited, Lake Clark Wilderness (2.5 million acres), Noatak Wilderness in the Brooks Range, Wrangell /St. Elias State Park, Glacier Bay just to mention a few. One scene stands out in mind of a bush plane flying in winter time with a back drop of towering mountain peaks sticking out of the snow every few miles *as far as the eye could see into the clear distance!* *Alaska is so vast...it is really hard to describe.* Portions of the film high light native culture, art and crafts as their caribou hides and shown be fabricated in the old way into moccasins and very attractive parkas. Certainly any of us contemplating a trip up North would be benefited by seeing this film.

Watching this presentation of scenery did get me thinking about going back up North again now that fuel prices are lower. My son Josh keeps saying "Remember I have made it driving straight through to the 40 mile River in Alaska in about 41 hours. We can install another 40 gal tank in my Diesel PU and drive by the higher priced stations in Northern BC. True it's a difficult pack for 4 hours to a spot he found of an exposed gravel bar on bed rock that panned 50 small flakes (.5 to 1mm) per pan. He recalls "But I recovered 5 to 8 grains of gold per 5

gallon bucket. It was just so easy...we never did get around to cleaning the crevices!"

Does it help looking at all those Rocks?

What are doing on those trips to San Francisco Tom?

By Tom Bohmker

When answering the question why I made trips ever month or so to San Francisco when I was in High School and College I just told people the truth! Quite often they would think I was kidding or trying to cover up some ulterior motive for these trips from my parents. Bear in mind this was the mid to late 1960's and San Francisco was abuzz with the Hippies in Haight Asbury, the Rock and Rolling Bands out at the Fillmore Auditorium, hanging out with the tourists at Fisherman's Wharf, the beatnik Jazz crowd in North Beach and the wild topless bars of the Tenderloin dist. Certainly there was a lot of potential distraction for a young person. **However what drew me repeatedly to San Francisco was the rocks and the maps, none of the above. Even then "Gold Fever" seemed to be a very strong pull for me.**

The California Division of Mineral Resources had an office in the Ferry Building, a superb library of geology and mining and the undisputed best collection of Rocks and Minerals in the State. Long rows of glass covered cases held rocks and minerals clearly labeled and identified from the mine or quarry from each county in the State. I would spend hours looking at them. At first Mineral identification is just a blur of long, hard to pronounce names and color and texture combinations. I had studied very hard a publication that gave locations all over the state where certain rocks and minerals were found with a brief description and features such as color, crystal form, cleavage, hardness and streak. But it helped to see them in form and with related other rocks or minerals in a blended sample. After a while I was able to ID various rocks and mineral in the field.

The research librarians at the Ferry Building were quick to help me located materials for my mining research. Across town a couple of miles adjacent to the "Tenderloin Dist." and its excesses was Thomas Brothers Maps that featured every topographic map in the west, perhaps the whole country. Before each prospecting trip I would stock up on maps of planned areas to visit. Interesting I have kept about a hundred and fifty of these maps all these years and comparing them with more modern versions of the maps a striking difference is that the old ones show many structures, ruins and mine sites that have disappeared from the new releases.

Certainly I was a slow learner but I saw slow progressive understanding about geology, mining, rock and mineral identification. Yes, even the turtle eventually got to the finish. Even now I like to think I learn a little more each year than I forget. At many meeting of the WVM club someone drags in a bunch of rocks or minerals for us to look at and along with a couple other members of we offer explanations and identifications (we're good guessers). At the November 2008 meeting a member was asking about a light colored rock with

streaks of green not unlike that of a corroded penny "Is this copper ore?" He was referring to Malachite (copper carbonate or $\text{CuCo}_3 \cdot \text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2$). He mentioned it came from Quartzville. Actually what he showed us was Andesite, one of the basic mountain building rocks similar to Granite but with less quartz and more feldspar. Some of the feldspar is that mellow green color. "How do you know?" he asked. The short answer is a lifetime of looking at lots of known, marked specimens and reading rock and mineral ID books. I showed a copy of one I sell to him...he bought it.

Another mineral often mistaken for copper is Garnierite. The gold rush miners found a literal mountain of it near Riddle OR and staked copper claims on it. However not a pound of copper came out of it. Several decades later it was shown to be nickel ore and in the 1950's mining began and became the largest US source of Nickel. Operations concluded in the 1990's.

How to ID copper ores? Put a drop of hydrochloric acid on the ore and place a shiny steel nail in the liquid. After a few second copper if present will be visibly plated on the nail. Be certain to wash sample in conclusion and follow acid use safety rules.

Where can you see a lot of rocks and minerals? Our club is sponsoring a trip soon to the **Rice Museum** in January. Will it entertain you? Yes. Will it help you understand a little more of the great forces that created and shape our world? Yes. Will you feel satisfied spending a portion of the day? Yes.

Does it help looking at all those Rocks? Most certainly YES!!!

Corrections:

November Issue, Classified Section. Contrary to popular opinion the price of \$29950.0 for a Keene 5 inch dredge is correct as it comes with a one kilo certified gold bar. This way when you use it the first time you can convince the wife "It is already \$90% paid for". However if you want the unit without any gold just move the decimal point one digit to the left, thus \$2,995.00. Please note the correct phone number in this issue for Member Brian Molloy is 541-929-3825.

Geologic and Prospecting Observations at Selected Mining Sites, East Humboldt Range, Nevada

Report #2-08 By Tom Bohmker c 2008

Overview: The Swett Mine, homestead & mines of "Rock House" are located on the West slopes of the East Humboldt range in Humboldt county Nevada. From Interstate 40 at a point about 45 NE of Lovelock a privately maintained road heads easterly some 14 miles to the Swett Mine & Homestead. The mines of "Rock House" are another 7 miles south east. The gold bearing veins of the region have been prospected and mined for values in gold and minor silver since the rushes of the 1860s. Many of the veins are small but carry high values intermittently in pockets or enrichments. Recently there have

been major attempts to develop and mine large zones of alluvial gold derived locally from weathering of the veins in piedmont area just south of the Swett Mine. This writer visited this region in 1955, 1965, 1969, 1980 and in 2004.

Geology: A series of major regional thrust faults running more or less N/S have formed the basin and range topography. Large mountain ranges form block like ridges with relatively flat barren valleys (piedmonts) between the parallel rough ranges. The tilting structures uncover older rock units along the base of the escarpment. In place igneous rocks rock units have invaded younger metamorphic and sedimentary rocks and basaltic rock flows. Near such intrusive rock units, localized fault zones provided pathways upwards for the flow of mineralized solutions that deposit gold, silver and other minerals. The general region to the south and further east toward Battle Mountain has gold deposits of large low grade micron sized gold in porous sediments as well as isolated high grade quartz vein type deposits.

History: The Swett family operated a number of smaller high grade type underground mines from the early 1900's to the late 1980's around their home at the base of the West Humboldt Range. One producing mining operation visited by this writer in the early 1950's was first discovered under a thin soil layer near the point at which the solid rock formation thrust out of an alluvial fan of sediments. A small shaft was sunk on the quartz exposure and considerable high grade ore with visible gold was taken out sometime in the 1930's. By the mid 1950's a drift tunnel was excavated along the vein averaging 2 feet or less in width and finally intersected the discovery shaft which continued to function for ventilation. Larger lower grade ore bodies were discovered where cross faulting produced a brecciated zone, sometimes to 10' in width. Milling grade (.5 oz ton or more) ore shipments were made to a custom mill and ore from high grade pockets were hauled in five gallon buckets to the Swett Home Place where a custom muller (small mill) designed by Mr. Swett SR. was used. This machine featured a flat bottomed pestle of hard white iron that oscillated back and forth grinding down the ore with the gold being held by mercury in the enclosed tub. Such high grade would often yield 1 to 3 ounces gold per bucket or more. Mr. Swett Sr. had worked with President Herbert Hoovers mining engineer brother in early 1900's and had a wealth of experiences mining all over the west to share. He also held various patents on mining/milling equipment. Four gold ingots together weighing approximately 300 troy ounces were hidden under the floor boards of the shed housing the muller and were shown to this writer's father, Jim Bohmker, during a 1954 visit.

Current Mining Activities: During the 2004 visit the potential of surface dry gold placer deposits adjacent to the Swett home were examined by this writer and found to carry potential. One historic placer shaft had been sunk over 100 feet deep, carrying some gold values all the way but still not contacting bed rock. On near by properties on the piedmont a large placer operation was being set up. Water was to be hauled from wells 4 miles away and recycled. Various power screens, jigs and tables were in the process of be set up on a concrete foundation. This new operator from Montana had improved the road from a

rutty, dusty dirt track in many of the loess soiled areas to a wider, graded road with hauled in gravel. This was said to be the best improvement in the road system since autos were first used here prior to WWI.

In recent years detector carrying prospectors have swarmed over the 30 odd square miles of this area checking out the numerous dry washes on the alluvial fan and have found small nuggets here and there. Locally it is the opinion that the detecting is better on the West side of Interstate 40 what is known as "Rye Patch" where many thousands of nuggets big and small have been recovered. Some rough nuggets have a distinctive crystalline shape desired by collectors. Certain dry washes may be found to carry enough gold for dry washing. The gold is generally a much lighter yellow color reflecting a higher than normal silver content.

Support our New Editor

As mentioned **Debbie Farrand** is our new editor. She would appreciate materials submitted on time (usually the 25th of the preceding month

The WVM Newsletter tries to address interests and informational needs of a variety of members. We have had articles on a great variety of mining and gold topics this past year. Some were intended for newly interested ones and other articles were more technical in nature for the more advanced gold hunter. There was effort on my part to try to provide entertaining stories and examples to help explain a matter.

I will continue to provide articles on topic in the future however please let the new editor know what kind of article or information you are interested in.

We need (no cost to you) mining things to sell in our Classified section

We still have a call out to members to share accounts of their summer mining season. These are very interesting. One member (not named at this time) has promised to write his story with a working title "Our Alaska Mining trip from Hell", a humorous account of dealing with difficulties in his quest for gold.

Its been a pleasure (and a lot of work) to be your newsletter editor this past year. I was moved to write down various mining stories long put off. Hopefully I will be able to continue progress on completing four unfinished mining technical and historical books and reissue/up date another.

Your former Editor: Tom Bohmker



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Email cascademountainsgold@gmail.com

Classifieds

Keene 5" Dredge w/ Triple Sluice

This is a classic model dredge famous for high volume and decent recovery of fine sized gold. This unit shows little wear, has a swivel nozzle, T-80 compressor, 20' air hose, and 8 hp.

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Brian Molloy

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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

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Wanted: Gold Screw

Dan @ 541- 401-0922 (Sweet Home)

Mercury for Sale Dan @ 541- 401-0922 (Sweet Home)

Willamette Valley Miners

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

