



WILLAMETTE VALLEY MINERS

April 2014

March Meeting

April 17, 2014

7:00pm

April Meeting – TBA

April 18-20 - Rickreall Mineral & Gem Show

May 3 - Potluck Picnic

May 24 - 26 - Vincent Creek outing

June 19-23 - Quartzville Miners Rendezvous

President's Report

I recently made a road trip down to the Dads Creek claims. I was amazed on the area consumed by the fire that went through last summer. Many of the hillsides are stripped of all their trees from logging the burnt timber. The saw mills in Glendale where in full operation. The fire did reach down onto WVM 3 but didn't appear to do too much damage. The road leading up to WVM 4, 5, and 6 was cleared of the branches and brush that was taking over. It does appear that the outfit that was going to log above WVM 5 prior to the fire is ramping up to do it this summer. There were a few fellows on WVM 5 prospecting. I said hi to them and thanked them for displaying their membership card in the windshield. I didn't pry much further into how well they may have been doing as my time was short to get a quick hike in. There may need to be some sign adjustments done on the Dads Creek claims so make sure you find the top and bottom markers of the association's claim prior to any prospecting. The road from after Dads Creek along Cow Creek into Riddle has a "road closed" sign. They are logging the hillsides all along there where the fire hit. They have cables across the road and are using helicopters. Luckily it was late and they were done for the day, one of the guys let us go through.

WVM President
Jeff Farrand

If you have changed your email/phone number or address please let us know by sending a note to the club mail box.

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Vacant – Contact Eben
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Events & Outings

See Calendar

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

Meeting Minutes

Happy Spring! This month's meeting was called to order by V.P. Mike Hunter and led in the pledge of allegiance by Valerie F. and Gary S. There were 51 members and 2 guests in attendance. Howard and Alan volunteered to be the "treat team" next month. Thank you Joyce, Rodney, and Ellen for all of the goodies this evening.

Jim P. gave the treasurer's report, which included a miraculous refund from the I.R.S. A motion was made to approve and was seconded.

The February meeting minutes were also approved. If you did not receive your Feb. newsletter by e-mail it was just an over-sight and you should receive it as usual next month. Remember, if have any news or articles of interest you would like to have included, please submit them by the 25th of the month to Debi Farrand our news editor.

From claims, Larry C. again reported that because of previous problems of vandalism and theft the issue of crossing private property to access Dry Gulch may still get you ticketed for trespassing. He is trying to reach both property owners to resolve this problem. So if you go to the claim and note any odd activity you should try to notify the local sheriff's department.

At the past outings, Jim P. said 17 people showed up at Stayton Pioneer Park for metal detecting. Numerous coins were found, in addition to a gold ring, and the usual assortment of junk. The weather was clear and dry, hurray, and donuts were enjoyed by all, except Mike H. You know what they say--"the early bird....".

At the Capitol Galleria, Eben R. reported that a few members attended along with several others. Six displays were set up showing equipment that is made and sold here in Oregon, trash that has been removed from local streams, some nice big Oregon nuggets and how mining can be a time for family involvement. There were some Senators, Representatives and their staff members that stopped by to visit. All in all, it was a positive display of Oregon miners. Thanks to those of you that attended.

The up-coming events and outings are: The

Rickreall Mineral and Gem Show on April 18th - 20th at the Rickreall fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Hwy. Friday opens at 9a.m., and Saturday and Sunday opens at 10 a.m. Thanks to all of you that have volunteered to help setup Thursday and noon and those of you who will be manning our booth. If you enjoy looking at and learning about rocks and gems, come on over and check out the different booths. And there is usually some fun things for kids to do, too. On Saturday May 3rd is the "Potluck Picnic" in the Stayton Pioneer park at 12:00 with lunch at 1:00. Contact Mike Hunter at 503-502-2382 if you plan to attend so he can have a general idea of how many to expect. This is just a chance to chat, relax and have some family together time. Guests are welcome.

On May 24th thru 26th will be the outing to the Vincent creek claim. There is a camping spot outside the pole gate and a few small spots inside the gate. If you are a new member you may want to check the area before pulling your RV inside. Please be sure to close the gate, coming and going. There will be a potluck dinner on one of those dates hosted by Sue & Alan Mitchell. Contact Alan at 541-740-0720 for more information.

Howard C. noted that there is a great number of books now available in the library, along with some tapes and maps that you can check out. Thanks to Gary Wolf for his donation of books that will be added to the inventory.

In Government Affairs, Tom Q. reports the opinion of the Attorney General's office to the DEQ is that they will not allow them to issue a suction dredge permit for 303D listed streams. These streams, about 1200 of them now, are said to be "impaired". I don't know about you, but I'm not sure what that is supposed to mean. He thanks those who attended the DSL meeting regarding the new 141 administrative rules system. The 850 general authorization permits have already been allotted. Also, the Briggs creek claim is for sale. Asking price is \$2800.00 or OBO. If anyone is interested contact

Tom Quintal.

For Good of the Order, Eben R., noted that those of you with a mining claim may have received a letter from the BLM. You need to respond within 30 days from the date on the letter, NOT from when you

received it, and inform them of your intent to HOLD the claim. Also, a motion was made to reimburse Wes J. for the booth space at the GPAA show. The motion was seconded and approved. Tom Q. stated that your general authorization from DSL only allows you to have three streams. That has now been changed, so you can make a request for the use of more streams on you GA permit.

Next, David and Karen Darnell gave a presentation on the new "Stream Savers" organization. This included an explanation of who they are, their goals, and how they anticipate reaching them. It was quite detailed and very informative. Thank you.

Lastly, a motion was made to adjourn this meeting that was seconded and approved. See you next time. Patti

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Rickreall Gem show: April 18-19-20

Potluck Picnic: May 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Stayton Pioneer park

Vincent Creek: May 24-26

Miners' Rendevouz: June 19-23

Raffle Corner

Raffle News. Thanks to everyone who brought items for the raffle table, keep it coming. The Nugget was won by Keith Looney, and the 50/50 by Damon James. Thanks to Gary S. for taking over the duties of "Raffle-Master".

Jim P.

Members' Corner

Prospectors advised to document any and all encounters with the law

By Walt Wegner PLP Vice President

This article is a reprint from the Pick & Shovel by permission from Brad Jones Managing Editor of the Gold Prospectors Association of America

Are you a hobbyist? A recreational miner? A prospector? A miner? What's the difference? While a rose by any other name may smell as sweet, the only individuals listed above that have federally granted rights are prospectors and miners.

As a prospector or miner, you have the right to enter onto public domain to seek out and remove and/or harvest locatable minerals. The act of May 10, 1872 (The 1872 Mining Law) provides that "all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States shall be free and open to exploration and purchase

Regardless of whether you prospect or mine for a living, when you prospect on public domain (lands that were not under private or state ownership during the 18th and 19th centuries in the United States) by metal detecting, dry-washing, sluicing and panning, you are a prospector. You have the right to be there that other user groups don't have.

When you locate a good discovery on land open to mineral entry, you can claim that discovery and then you can start mining. You are now a "miner" and no individual or agency can deny you access to your own private property! By private property, I refer to the valuable minerals, only. Surface right belong to the government. The government has the right to manage the surface, as long as it does not interfere with your mining operation. The public retains its right to access your claim as long as it does not interfere with your mining operation and as long as they do not prospect or mine without your permission.

However, if you are an American who resides east to the Mississippi River, you are probably aware that land east of the Mississippi is classified as ACQUIRED lands. Unfortunately, you can only mine on permit or lease or on private property. The 1872 Mining Law does not apply east of the Mississippi River.

From now on, identify yourself as a prospector or a miner so you may benefit from the rights granted to you under the 1872 Mining Law. But be warned, there are individuals, groups and agencies the seek to amend, abolish or violate the law along with your rights

How can you maintain these rights? One simple method is to hold agencies accountable for their actions.

If you are approached by someone in authority and you feel they are violating your rights, stay calm,

pull out a notepad and begin writing notes. In a neutral voice, ask if you are breaking the law? Write down there response.

If the enforcement officer indicates that you are breaking the law, apologize, plead ignorance and ask what law in particular you were breaking. Write it down. Ask them for a code or number that applies to that law. Ask the officer if he or she is requesting that you stop what you're doing or is insisting that you leave. Ask for their name and badge number, the office out of which they work and the name of their supervisor.

Remember, you have a Constitutional right to ask and receive answers to all these questions. Document everything!

In my experience, after you politely ask the first few questions, the person in authority will not try to bully you because they understand they'll have to answer for what you are writing down. If you have a video camera, use it. If they insist you stop what you are doing and/or tell you to leave and that they are giving you a lawful order, do as they say. Then, contact a mining rights group such as Public Lands for The People and provide them with your written account of the event. If your rights have been violated under the color of authority, the PLP will make a complaint to the agency about the abuse and put them on alert that the behavior will not be tolerated and that legal action may be taken. By holding agencies accountable, you are making a difference, not only in standing up for your own rights, but for the rights of others.

A great resource to have on hand is the agency's own regulations. If you are in a National forest, you need a will copy of the C.F.R. 228 regulations. This applies to prospecting and mining within the forest. If you are on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, you will need the 3809 regulations. Both can be obtained from the agencies or on the Web. Simply, Google for the regulations and print them.

They won't do you much good if they are tucked away in your glove box or mining gear. Read them, learn them and keep them with you when you are out prospecting.

There is nothing more satisfying than knowing the regulations better than they do.

Get educated, get involved.

Hello WVM members

I have just made an agreement with the property owner for access through their property to our Dry Gulch claim. All WVM members passing through the privet property must display a current membership card....no card no access which means you are trespassing and can be ticketed. In addition there is no camping on the privet property and if anyone sees trash lying around please pick it up, most of us would do this anyway. Also if anyone sees someone causing a problem (cutting trees or other destruction) please give me a call at [541-905-4749](tel:541-905-4749) or call the Sheriff's office. Please also call if you have questions.

Larry Coon
Claims chairman

How to Identify Hot Rocks and Nugget Hunting

When you are operating with your detector in the All Metal mode, the signal you receive from a hot rock will be the same, as you would receive from a metallic object. The signal is positive and unmistakably metal. Of course, you should first try to identify any target before digging.

How to identify hot rocks

Let us make clear again that identification of hot rocks and hot spots is no problem whatsoever to a modern, properly calibrated detector. The procedure for identifying mineral hot rocks (and hot spots) is a simple one, but it will require practice from you. To check to see if the "metal" response is metal or mineral, pinpoint your target with the detector in the all-metal mode. Then, move the search coil to one side, lower it slightly or set it on the ground and switch to the discriminate mode of operation, specified by the manufacturer as the calibrated level for ore sampling. Audio retune the detector, if necessary, according to manufacturer's instructions. Now, with a constant sound (threshold) coming from your detector, pass the search coil back over the target. Keep the search coil at the same distance from the ground, as just discussed. Maintaining constant search coil height may be difficult at first, but you can accomplish it with practice. If the sound level decreases (or goes silent), your target is

magnetic iron ore or oxides. These are the only substances that will cause the signal to stop. When this happens, ignore the target, switch back into all metal and continue searching.

You have just exposed a hot spot.

If, on the other hand, your signal increases or remains steady, the target should be investigated. Increase your variable discrimination control (usually by turning the knob clockwise) to determine the amount of conductivity in this target. This procedure makes it obvious why you should not attempt to prospect with a detector that has a fixed or programmed discrimination control. If you have previously practiced with varying discrimination, you already know the approximate point on the control where worthless pyrite and low grade (conductive) ore will be rejected. If you continue to receive a positive response after you have passed this setting, it is very possible that you have discovered a non-ferrous pocket, a vein of conductive ore or a nugget.

You may have just struck it rich!

Hot rocks are “freaks” or “oddballs” of nature. They should not be where they are, and they should not cause your detector to react the way that it does. But, they do! Simply stated, however, hot rocks are “there,” and we must deal with them. With a properly calibrated detector that properly discriminates you can identify them quickly, and they will become to you exactly what they are to veteran prospectors-tolerable pests.

Nugget Hunting

We recommend the all-metal mode. Most professionals do not use discriminate mode because even small amounts of discrimination can result in losing nuggets. Headphones are an absolute must in nugget hunting because the small size of many nuggets results in only faint audio signals. Adjust your audio for faint sound. Scan slowly and methodically to cover all areas of the ground. Be certain to move large boulders aside so that you can scan under them. Scan up against brush and other obstacles. If you find the ground extremely uneven and cannot maintain a constant search coil height, you may encounter problems with ground balance and ground mineralization. If so, simply elevate your search coil a few inches, set your manual ground balance controls at that height and continue scanning. You will not lose depth. In fact, because of the better quality of your audio, you may even detect nuggets more deeply and more accurately.

If the area you are searching is so littered with iron junk or hot rocks that it is really troublesome, experiment with small amounts of discrimination. Dig quite a few targets you detect at zero discrimination and study what you have found. Then use the discrimination techniques but advance your controls no farther clockwise that necessary to reject the most troublesome of your pests.

We suggest you manually adjust your detector for the most precise ground balance. If you like, try automatic ground balancing first. If, when scanning, the audio changes by an amount that you feel is too great, manually ground balance the instrument. Precise adjustment of ground balance will enable you to deal with ground mineralization more properly.

There is no magic to location nuggets! Nugget hunters are successful because they are willing to work hard and hunt for long hours. Try it. It will pay you dividends!

How To Benefit From TH'ing Extras

By Jay Pastor

"Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it." – Kipling

Metals are slowly and imperceptibly getting scarcer, particularly the strategic ones. A TH'er, rather than restrict his searches to minted silver, gold, and copper, might want to consider investigating other metals as well, both for cash and for our national interest. According to the U.S. Bureau of Mines (1990 figures), each American citizen annually consumes about 1,300 pounds of steel and iron. And every man, woman, and child also uses up 65 pounds of aluminum, 25 pounds of copper, 15 pounds of manganese, 15 pounds of lead, 15 pounds of zinc, and 35 pounds of other metals, such as boron, vanadium, lithium, chromium, barium, and cobalt (without which a jet airplane couldn't fly).

The energy needed to produce, refine and tool these metals comes from 8,000 pounds of oil, 4,700 pounds of natural gas, 5,150 pounds of coal, and 1/10 pound of uranium. These figures, of course, don't represent the actual requirements of any particular person. They're calculated by dividing total usage by the population of the country, so that they include the beams in the malls where we shop, the wires in the transmission lines that carry our

electric power, the rails for the high-speed railroads being built to link our major cities (currently between Boston and Washington DC), and the aluminum in all the soft drink and beer cans produced during the year.

Constructing a medium-size jet aircraft engine gobbles up 5,366 pounds of titanium, 5,204 pounds of nickel, 1,656 pounds of chromium, 910 pounds of cobalt, 720 pounds of aluminum, 171 pounds of columbium, and 3 pounds of tantalum. (Without chromium, cobalt, manganese, and platinum, there can be no aircraft, automobiles, satellites, or home appliances.) If we also include sand, gravel, cement, and dimension stone in our yearly requirements, more than four billion tons of new minerals are needed every year by the U.S. economy. The minerals must be dug up here, recycled, or imported. Currently the United States imports 100% of its niobium, 99% of its manganese, 97% of its bauxite (aluminum), as well as the following other metals: tantalum (90%), chromium (88%), platinum (85%), nickel (75%), tin (72%), silver (58%), zinc (53%), tungsten (48%), gold (43%), iron ore (36%), and vanadium (14%). We still have a fair amount of copper (although shortages appear every so often, requiring us to import about 7%). Luckily, right now, there's enough lead to avoid the need to bring in more, which is fortunate when you consider its weight.

By developing a general interest in all metals, and a particular interest in metal recycling, a coinshooter is in a position to make a few extra dollars and perform a public-spirited gesture as well. Scrap metal recycling has even turned into a lucrative career for a select few - although (despite the current emphasis on ecology) junkyard operation still remains a field that has no status at all. While a scrap dealer performs a valuable service (and might drive a Cadillac DeVille, live in a landscaped condo, and send his kids to Yale), his image (perish the thought - "her" image) is far from glamorous. We tend to visualize him in a torn surplus field jacket and muddy boots (usually near piles of greasy, metallic chewings), waving instructions to an electromagnet-crane operator who hasn't shaved since last weekend and has a cigarette drooping from the corner of his mouth. For someone just starting out in life, this career hardly offers the glitz of Law, Medicine, or hunting for Spanish gold. Yet, one such company, Nucor Inc., is currently

revitalizing our steel industry by gobbling up the entire American rust-belt, and turning it into steel ingots. It uses a machine three football-fields long. Old cars, I-beams, washing machines, roofing and any other over-the-hill chunks of steel and iron that Nucor can get its shovels on are pushed into one end of this redesigned Bessemer converter - and nice clean blocks of pig iron and steel emerge from the other. They're turned into nuts, bolts, and construction forms, and are also blended with new steel for our automotive industry. Some of the output is even shipped overseas. The nuts and bolts are popular here. Check your hardware store for some of them. They're stamped with a small "U". Recycling is a pursuit our children may want to investigate if they're willing to forgo prestige for income. But, to a regular coinshooter (unless he or she is also a serious prospector), being alert to non-coin, non-jewelry, or non-valuable-artifact metal is simply a way to help recoup some of the out of pocket costs of treasure hunting. Among the less remunerative but common metals that can be found during an outing, and sold to a local scrap dealer, are uninsulated copper wire, grounding rods, copper screens, and copper sheets (currently about 50-cents a pound). There's also copper attached to other metals (about 40-cents a pound). Brass can be sold for about 25-cents a pound; stainless steel, about 10-cents a pound; aluminum cans, about 30-cents a pound (if un-dented, they usually can be redeemed for at least 5-cents apiece at large grocery stores); sheet aluminum, and aluminum rods, tubes, and screens, about 20-cents a pound; and lead automobile and motorcycle batteries, for \$2 or more, each (watch out for the acid). Industrial waste often contains valuable metals. Many industries now have facilities to retrieve this sort of material, but the practice is fairly new. Much scrap of this kind was discarded long ago and is still around. Photographic leftovers often contain silver. Dental rejects might contain silver, gold, and platinum. Automotive scrap has components of copper, lead, and even platinum (in the exhaust-system catalytic converters). Scrap jewelry and household items (e.g., flatware) often contain precious metals. There are dealers that will buy them from you for a reasonable price. Electrical and electronic junk sometimes includes gold-plated switch-and relay-contacts, silver cells and batteries, mercury, exotic metals (constantine, tantalum, titanium), and heavy copper bars. Several recovery companies actually buy the floor sweepings of certain industries.

On the upscale side, a TH'er with champagne taste can get about \$300 an ounce for gold, \$6 an ounce for silver, and about \$375 an ounce for platinum. Palladium would bring something like \$330 for a comparable amount. If you're lucky enough to find an ounce of crude or scrap rhodium, you'll be richer to the tune of \$850. Why am I bothering you about all this? Believe me; my purpose in throwing these figures at you is not to convince to leave your job, and sink your life's savings into 532 abandoned automobiles or a thousand tons of industrial sweepings. Reprocessing is a specialized field that takes capital, time, technical know-how, manpower, specialized equipment, business ability, and hard work.

What I am suggesting, rather, is that a detectorist can benefit in a small way (or in as large a way as he is willing to pursue) by becoming more aware of what's in the ground, its potential use, and its market value. Most of us have a solid familiarity with older coins, jewelry, and the financial or intellectual potential of historic relics and artifacts. But we can only benefit by also knowing more about the other items our shovels uncover. The result of this additional knowledge may simply be a few cardboard cartons in the garage, into which you can toss oddball pieces of copper, aluminum, or brass. A regular practice of this kind might make you 25 to 50 untaxed dollars richer every few months. On the other hand, the right discoveries could turn you into a millionaire. Knowledge is power. It's also pleasurable.

As long as international trade remains fluid and free, America doesn't have to be afraid of running out of strategic metals during the next century. But History tells us that it's always wise to be prepared. And even if we can get all the nickel we need from our Canadian friends, there is only so much raw material available in the earth. Depending on the scarcity of a given metal, it's almost guaranteed that its price will rise eventually - possibly to the point where it might not even be available for ordinary use. Anything that's thrown back into the hopper for reprocessing will benefit us all to some extent. It's worth thinking about.

There's also an inherent interest to a TH'er in learning about other metals. It expands one's horizons and adds depth to the hobby. Someone

named John Ashbery once made this statement, which has since become famous: "As I sit looking out of the window of the building, I wish I did not have to write the instruction manual on the uses of a new metal." Personally, I'd be only too glad to take over his job when he gets fired. Like most Th'ers, I know better. All metals are important, interesting, and often downright fascinating. (this is about metal detecting but can also include gold mining)

Gold!

Why do we treasure it so much? Why is it so valuable? The first discoverers of this wonderful metal found gold in riverbeds about 5000 B.C. and believed it had special healing properties. Around 4500 B.C. the Egyptians started using gold in dentistry and molding it into fabulous ornaments. And today, 7,000 years later, gold's extraordinary reflective capability is used to deflect and confuse heat-seeking missiles on military aircraft including the President's Air Force One. It has been a symbol of treasure for thousands of years. No other metal has been the basis of hundreds of currencies and its use for jewelry and decorations is universal. More people have been killed for its possession than any other motive for crime.

Gold is the most ductile element known. One ounce can be drawn into wire 43 miles long. Alchemy is an ancient art practiced during the middle Ages. It was devoted mainly to discovering a way to transmit common metals into gold. Alchemists never discovered how, of course, but alchemy in many ways laid the foundation for the science of chemistry. By the 18th century modern chemistry came into being and alchemy became a dead science. A ton of gold would be about the same size as a filing cabinet drawer. Gold is a very stubborn element because it reacts with very few other elements. There are not many true gold ores, besides native gold, because it forms a trace with other elements or a =is alloyed to a small extent with other metals such as silver. Because it is almost indestructible, valued so highly and has been reused for centuries most all of the gold in existence almost equals all of the gold ever mined. Gold seems to have an affinity for tellurium which is one of the only elements that gold can bond with easily. In fact only a few tellurides are found without gold. Telluride, Colo., was named after the ore. Over the centuries thousands of miners were disappointed

when they discovered that the wonderful outcroppings they discovered were nothing but “fool’s Gold” which is a common sulfide like pyrite, chalcopyrite or marcasite. Weathered flakes of biotite, which has a bright yellow color and flashes in the sunlight, have been mistaken for gold standard for its currency. Did you ever wonder about what the difference is between gold plating and gold fill? Gold plating is a coating of at least 10-karat gold or gold alloy plated on a base metal by electrolysis. The plating must be at least seven-millionths of an inch thick. This process is widely used in the aerospace and electronics industries. Gold filled, sometimes called gold overlay, is a layer of at least 1-karat gold permanently bonded by heat and pressure to a surface of a supporting metal and then rolled or drawn to a prescribed thickness. The gold must be at least 1/20 by weight of the total metal content of the finished piece.

Gold wash is a film of gold less than seven-millionths of an inch thick electroplated on a base metal.

Vermeil is sterling silver coated or plated on the surface with gold of not less than 10-karat fineness. In 1900 the US adopted the gold. Gold is a noble metal. Its symbol is Au from Aurora or dawn. The medicinal powers of gold have been recognized for centuries. In medieval Europe the ancient alchemists mixed powdered gold into drinks to cure and comfort sore limbs. The news about gold’s power to ease the pain of arthritis became well known and its effectiveness has been confirmed by modern research. Today it is widely used in combination with other drugs in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. In ancient Rome gold salves were concocted for the treatment of skin ulcers and now gold leaf plays an important role to cure chronic ulcers. Confirmed by archaeologists, in 2500 B.C. Egyptians used gold in dentistry. In modern times our dentists use about 13 tons of gold each year for crowns, inlays, bridges and dentures. Gold was first used in modern medicine in 1890 when bacteriologist Robert Koch found out that compounds made with gold slowed the growth of the bacillus that caused tuberculosis. Today, medical uses of gold have expanded far beyond the early years of its use. Microscopic pellets of gold help retard prostate cancer. Ovarian cancers are treated with colloidal gold; vapor lasers seek out and destroy cancer cells without harming the

healthy ones. Scientists are attaching gold to DNA to study hybrid genetic material in cells. Gold is biologically benign so biochemists use gold to form compounds with proteins to create new lifesaving drugs. Surgeons use gold instruments to clear coronary arteries and gold is being tested for the treatment of AIDS. In hospitals and office buildings a gold-coated infra-red instrument is in use that immediately detects the buildup of carbon dioxide and other indoor pollutants and then turns on blowers to clear the air. All over the world the unique qualities of gold are helping millions of people live longer, more productive and healthier lives. Someday it might save your life.

In 1787 the first US gold coin was struck by Ephraim Brasher, a goldsmith. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, for our modern age of technology to exist without the wonderful assistance of gold. When an Air Force fighter plane was shot down over Bosnia tiny pieces of gold helped save the pilot’s life. The electronics of his escape system, the parachute that carried him safely to earth and the air survival radio that enabled him to reach his rescuers all relied on gold parts to insure they functioned without failure.

In critical micro-electronic circuitry no other metal is as dependable as gold. It does not corrode, crumble or tarnish. Moisture, oxygen or ordinary acids do not affect it. It is virtually indestructible. Biggest ransoms: a hall full of gold and silver worth 1.6 billion at today’s values and paid to the Spanish conquistador, Pizarro at Cajamarca, Peru for the release of Atahualpa, the Inca emperor in the 16th then murdered him. In 1975, 57.7 million was paid to the left-wing guerrilla Montoneros for the release of brothers Jorge and Juan Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (from the Guinness Book of Records.)

More than 30,000,000 automobiles are now equipped with air bags that use gold electrical contacts so that the system will work without fail. Gold is used with nickel to bond compressor vanes in the huge turbines of jetliners so that they can withstand exhaust temperatures of more than 1150 degrees. When subfreezing temperatures threaten visibility, a transparent film of gold keeps windshields clear of frost. In space, gold is used to shield ultra-sensitive electronic equipment and circuitry. Gold is used in astronomy to reflect infrared light and is also used on the reflective

Willamette Valley Miners

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We Meet Third Thursday of
each month, 7:00 pm at
Marion County Fire Hall
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Salem, OR

