

Nugget News

February

2021

Official Newsletter of the
NorthWest Gold Prospectors Association



Join / Renew Today

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upcoming meetings,
outings and newsletters.

\$20 for Single
\$25 for Couple
\$30 for Family

PROMOTING SMALL SCALE MINING , CASUAL GOLD PROSPECTING , RECREATIONAL GOLD PANNING & METAL DETECTING

Important Notice!

22nd Annual Gold & Treasure Show

March 13th & 14th

Kootenai County Fairgrounds

*As of now, the County is allowing our show as long
as we maintain safe practices. Bring your masks!*

*Due to COVID-19 issues, the February 2021
meeting was cancelled! Please watch for any meeting updates in
future editions of the Nugget News! Stay Safe Everyone!*



THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PIONEER GOLD PROSPECTOR

On Sundays Downieville was full of men, none very old, and none very young, but almost every one of middle age. Nearly every man was coarsely dressed, with beard unshaved and many with long hair, but on any occasion of excitement it was not at all strange to see the coarsest, roughest looking one of all the party mount a stump and deliver as eloquent an address as one could wish to hear. On Sunday it was not at all unusual for some preacher to address the moving crowd, while a

(Continued on page 3) Autobiography

Volunteers Needed

We again are looking for club members to step forward and volunteer to help out at our 22nd Annual Gold & Treasure Show on March 13th & 14th, 2021. We have a need for help at the following positions:

Admissions: Take money for admission, handout door prize tickets & homemade equipment ballots. Also gold vials to the first 100 attendees each day.

Rovers: Assist vendors, answer questions about the club/prospecting, monitor homemade equipment contest and assist where needed. Also help with setup & tear down.

Panning Tub: Teach attendees how to pan for gold.

Club Booth: Sell raffle tickets, help with new memberships & renewals, sell club merchandise & answer questions.

The times are 8:30 to 11:30, 11:30 to 2:00, 2:00 to 5:00 (4:00 on Sunday)

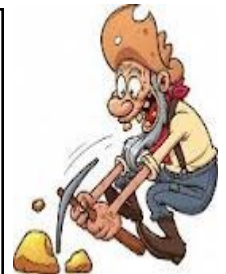
Call Mark Cook @ 208-755-8853 or email: mark2697301@gmail.com to volunteer and sign up for the timeslot of your choice. Thanks for Volunteering!



The Northwest Gold Prospectors Association meets
at 7:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the
Rathdrum Senior Center located at 8037 W Montana Street, Rathdrum, ID

Our regular outings are at Eagle City Park the weekend following the monthly meeting with a pot-luck at 4pm on Saturday. Other outings will be announced by the President and posted in the newsletter. November thru March members are invited to meet each Saturday morning at 8:00AM at Kootenai Medical Center Cafeteria in Coeur d'Alene to solve the world's problems.

Please join us.



Letters to the Editor & Other fun "Stuff"

By "GoldFever Bob" Lowe



Placer Mining

Unlike hard-rock mining, which extracts veins of precious minerals from solid rock, placer mining is the practice of separating heavily eroded minerals like gold from sand or gravel. The word placer

is thought to have come from Catalan and Spanish, meaning a shoal or sand bar. The word entered the American vocabulary during the 1848 California Gold Rush, and when gold was discovered in Alaska and the Canadian Klondike in the late 1890s, the gold-seekers who rushed northward brought with them various placer mining technologies. By far the simplest was the prospector's pan that worked by swirling a combination of water and gravel or sand and allowing the lighter, rocky material to spill out. Relying on the fact that gold is heavier than sand and rock is the principle used in all placer mining operations.

The first challenge is to find a creek drainage that over the eons has carried gold dust, flakes, and nuggets downward to be deposited in layers of creek sediments. To do this, prospectors used pans to test the surface gravels or dug straight down to a point just above bedrock where placer gold tends to collect. They then tunneled horizontally to follow the richest ground. This approach is called drift mining (the horizontal tunnel is the drift). These shafts and tunnels were typically dug in winter so that frozen ground would not melt and collapse on the miners. Even so, the practice was arduous and dangerous. In the spring and summer, a defrosting pile of gold-rich gravel called paydirt could be processed using the placer miner's friend: water.

The power of Water

Miners can use a prospector's pan to collect their gold one pan at a time, but this is slow, back-breaking work. To speed up the process they use the flow of water through wooden troughs called sluice boxes. In the bottom of the box a series of riffles, like

shallow fences, agitate the slurry of water and gravel, encouraging small particles of gold to fall out of solution (again because they are heavier than sand and rock). In this way gold can be captured while the waste material spills out of the end of the box. As an alternative to building lengthy sluice boxes on site, some early placer miners carried with them mobile sluicing units called rockers (compact, boxy sluices operated by rocking the unit side to side) and long-toms (a portable sluice box that did not need to be built on site).

Another technique that accelerated the placer mining process was hydraulicking, which harnessed the incredible power of water under pressure. By constructing a penstock (a wood and earthen reservoir of creek water) and installing a system of sectional steel pipes, miners could create enough water pressure to blast away large amounts of earth. In order to allow a single person to direct the torrent of water, miners used a large counter-weighted nozzle called a giant or monitor. Even after placer mining became more industrialized, hydraulicking continued to be used for removing topsoil and beginning the process of thawing permafrost in advance of enormous gold dredges. In order to thaw many acres of frozen ground, early dredging operations also injected the ground with steam or water.

Era of Machines

Moving gravel by hand is arduous work and often placer gold exists in very small quantities, so it is no surprise that gold miners turned to steam-powered and then diesel-powered machines to make poor ground profitable. The earliest gold dredges in Alaska arrived in the 1910s, and by the 1930s several

dredges were imported to mines along the Yukon River. They did the same work as earlier placer techniques but on an industrial scale, scooping thousands of cubic feet of gravel each day, washing it in revolving tumblers with

water from all angles, and running it through multiple sluice boxes. The orderly piles of waste rock the dredges left behind as they moved across the landscape are called tailings. In order to capture as much gold as possible, dredge operators and small-scale placer miners alike added mercury to their sluice boxes because gold and mercury bond chemically to form what is called an amalgam. After removing the riffles and scraping the amalgam out of the box, the process of retorting can begin. Retorting involves heating the amalgam in a crucible until the mercury vaporizes; then the gold can be melted to remove impurities and poured into a mold to create a

gold brick.

Placer Mining History

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve was created in part to protect and interpret the history of the Klondike-Alaska Gold Rush and the legacy of gold placer mining in the region. Along the Yukon River between Eagle and Circle visitors today can see evidence of the region's placer gold past, including prospectors' log cabins, mining camps, sluice boxes, tailings piles, hydraulic pipe, steam boilers, drilling rigs, and earth-moving equipment. From the air over Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek they will also see gold dredges and the neatly piled tailings that are the telltale sign of a dredge mining operation. These relics of placer gold mining's heyday serve as a kind of open-air museum and as reminders of the power of mining to transform the landscape.

By NPS (National Park Service)

Nugget News

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NorthWest Gold
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**All ads & stories are due by the
25th of the month preceding
publication month.**

Grubstakin', Swappin' & Peddlin'

few feet behind him would be a saloon in full blast, and drinking, gambling, swearing and vulgar language could be plainly seen and heard at the same time, and this class of people seemed to respect the Sunday preacher very little. The big saloon was owned by John Craycroft, formerly a mate on a Mississippi River steamboat, who gained most of his money by marrying a Spanish woman and making her a silent partner.

One enterprising man who was anxious to make money easily, took a notion to try his luck in trade, so, as rats and mice were troublesome in shops and stores, he went down to the valley and brought up a cargo of cats which he disposed of at prices varying from fifty to one hundred dollars each, according to the buyer's fancy.

During the summer Kelley the fiddler came up in the mines to make a raise, and Craycroft made him a pulpit about ten feet above the floor in his saloon, having him to play nights and Sundays at twenty dollars per day. He was a big uneducated Irishman, who could neither read nor write, but he played and sang and talked the rich Irish brogue, all of which brought many customers to the bar. In the saloon could be seen all sorts of people dealing different games, and some were said to be preachers. Kelley staid here as long as he could live on his salary, and left town much in debt, for whiskey and cards got all his money.

One of the grocers kept out a sign, "CHEAP JOHN, THE PACKER," and kept a mule to deliver goods, which no other merchant did, and in this way gained many friends, and many now may praise the enterprise of Cheap John, the Packer. Prices were pretty high in those days. Sharpening picks cost fifty cents, a drink of whiskey one dollar, and all kinds of pork, fifty cents per pound. You could get meals at the McNutty house for one dollar. The faro and monte banks absorbed so much of the small change that on one occasion I had to pay five dollars for a two dollar pair of pants in order to get a fifty dollar slug changed.

No white shirts were worn by honest men, and if any man appeared in such a garment he was at once set down as a gambler, and with very little chance of a mistake. One Langdon had the only express office, and brought letters and packages from Sacramento. I paid one dollar simply to get my name on his letter list, and when a letter came I had

Stop at the Sprag Pole Sports Bar & Museum for Great Food & Good Times in Murray, Idaho.

G & G River Stop at the "Y" in Prichard, ID. Your one-stop-shop for all your camping needs. Cold Beer/Pop, Food, Fishing Tackle/Bait, Gas, Phone and still the **Best Ice Cream Cones** around.

Visit the **Bedroom Gold Mine Bar** in Murray. Enjoy beer, wine and cocktails while playing darts or pool. See how it looked in the old days. They now have a kitchen with Pizza and deli sandwiches as well as dinner specials on the weekends, we also serve breakfast on weekends during the summer months and hunting season. Many great pictures to look at.

Prospector Pins (\$5.00) are available for your own use or as gifts. See at meetings or call (208)699-8128

Wanted: Mining videos, books and pamphlets, old owners manuals for detectors, dredges, pumps, etc. for the NWGPA library. Call Bob Lowe @ (208)699-8128.

The Gold Sniper by Gold Fever Bob. Get this effective crevice tube for that hard to reach gold in the cracks of bedrock. Four models to chose from. From \$25 to \$75 Call 208-699-8128.

The Snake Pit (Enaville Resort), in Kingston serves the best "Smoked Prime Rib" in the Northwest. They have a full menu with fast, courteous service.

Rugged Country Outpost, A must-stop, go to food trailer serving the best breakfasts and lunches on the Coeur d'Alene River. Located on Beaver Creek Rd a hundred yards or so from Babin's Junction. Open summers from early morning to mid-afternoon (6am to 4:00pm). See ad on page 4!

Prichard Tavern – Still home to its Famous Broasted Chicken also serving Alligator Bites, Frog Legs, Hand Formed Hamburgers and Ice Cold Beer! A great place to meet old friends and make new ones! **Editor's Note: Be sure to try their "Flat Iron Steak"**

to pay one dollar for bringing it up, as there was no Post Office at Downieville.

Newspapers were eagerly sought for, such was the hunger for reading. The Western folks bought the St. Louis papers, while Eastern people found the New York Tribune a favorite. One dollar each for such papers was the regular price. It may seem strange, but aside from the news we got from an occasional newspaper, I did not hear a word from the East during the two years I remained on Yuba river. Our evenings were spent in playing cards for amusement, for no reading could be got. The snow between Marysville and Downieville was deep and impassable in winter, but we could work our drifting claims very comfortably, having laid in a stock of provisions early in the season, before snowfall. The nights seemed tediously long and lonesome, for when the snow was deep no one came to visit us, and we could go nowhere, being completely hemmed in. All the miners who did not have claims they could work underground, went down below the winter snow-line to find work, and when the snow went off came back again and took possession of the old claims they had left.

After the snow went off three German sailors came up and took a river claim a short distance above us on a north fork of the north fork of the stream, where one side of the canyon was perpendicular and the other sloped back only slightly. Here they put logs across the river, laid stringers on these, and covered the bottom with fir boughs. Then they put stakes at the sides and rigged a canvas flume over their bridge through which they turned the whole current of the river, leaving a nearly dry bed beneath. This we called pretty good engineering and management on the part of the sailor boys, for no lumber was to be had, and they had made themselves masters of the situation with the material on hand.

They went to work under their log aqueduct, and found the claim very rich in coarse gold. They went to town every Saturday night with good big bags of dust, and as they were open-hearted fellows, believing that a sailor always has the best of luck, they played cards freely, always betting on the Jack and Queen, and spent their money more easily than they earned it. They were quite partial to the ladies, and patronizing the bar and card tables as liberally as they did, usually returned to camp on Monday or Tuesday with a mule load of grub and whiskey as all the visible proceeds of a week's successful mining; but when Saturday night came around again we were pretty

(Continued on page 4) Autobiography

sure to see the jolly sailors going past with heavy bags of gold. They left one nearly pure piece of gold at Langdon's Express office that weighed five pounds, and another as large as a man's hand, of the shape of a prickly pear leaf.

They worked their claim with good success until the snow water came down and forced them out. I went one day to see them and they took a pan of dirt from behind a big rock and washed it out, getting as much as two teacup full of nuggets, worth perhaps a thousand dollars. When they went away they said they would go to Germany to see their poor relatives and friends, and one of them really went home, but the other two had spent all their money before they were ready to leave San Francisco. These men were, without doubt, the inventors of the canvas flume which was afterward used so successfully in various places.

While I was still here the now famous Downieville Butte quartz mine was discovered, but there was no way then of working quartz successfully, and just at that time very little was done with it, but afterward, when it was learned how to work it, and the proper machinery introduced, it yielded large sums of bullion.

The miners had a queer way of calling every man by some nickname or other instead of his true name, and no one seemed offended at it, but answered to his new name as readily as to any.

It was nearly fall when we found we had worked our claims out, and there were no new ones we could locate here, so we concluded to go prospecting for a new locality. I bought a donkey in town of a Mr. Hawley, a merchant, for which I paid sixty dollars, and gave the little fellow his old master's name. We now had two animals, and we packed on them our worldly goods, and started south up the mountain trail by way of the city of six, where some half dozen men had located claims, but the ground was dry and deep, so we went on.

We still went south, down toward the middle Yuba River, and when about half way down the mountain side came to a sort of

Club T-Shirts Are Available

**S, M, L & XL are \$14 each
2XL & 3XL are \$16 each**

**New caps & visors are available
See and purchase at the meetings and the outings
Makes Perfect Gifts**

level bench where some miners were at work, but hardly any water could be had. They called this Minnesota. We stayed here a day or two, but as there seemed to be no possible further development of water, concluded to go on further. Across the river we could see a little flat, very similar to the one we were on, and a little prospecting seemed to have been done on the side of the mountain. We had a terribly steep canyon to cross, and a river also, with no trail to follow, but our donkeys were as good climbers as any of us, so we started down the mountain in the morning, and arrived at the river about noon. Here we rested an hour or two and then began climbing the brushy mountain side. The hill was very steep, and the sun beat down on us with all his heat, so that with our hard labor and the absence of any wind we found it a pretty hot place.

It was pretty risky traveling in some places, and we had to help the donkeys to keep them from rolling down the hill, pack and all. It took us four hours to make a mile and a half or two miles in that dense brush, and we were nearly choked when we reached the little flat. Here we found some water, but no one lived here. From here we could see a large flat across a deep canyon to the west, and made up our minds to try to go to it. We went around the head of the canyon, and worked through the brush and fallen timber, reaching our objective point just as night was coming on. This flat, like the one we had left, was quite level, and contained, perhaps, nearly one hundred acres.

(Continued on page 5) *Autobiography*

Gold is \$1,815.20 an ounce! This time last year it was \$1,552.70 an ounce!

***To get your copy of the Nugget News early via
email, please send an email to
bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com
with "Newsletter" in the subject box.***

***I need to go on medication, so I can slap stupid
people and blame in on the side effects!***

Notice

Eagle City Park is privately owned and operated and is for the exclusive use of Eagle City Park Members and their guests and is open to all NWGPA members the weekend after the second Thursday of the month from May thru October, free of charge for day use. Overnight camping during this weekend is \$20 per family for the whole weekend (Friday thru Sunday). Potluck picnic is at 4pm on Saturday that weekend.

You are welcome to come and prospect and / or camp at other times. The fees are \$20 per family per day, \$30 per family per weekend (Friday thru Sunday), \$100 per family per week and \$300 per family per month.
Please call 208-699-8128 or 208-682-4661 for reservations.

To get to Eagle City Park take I-90 to Kingston (Exit 43), then take the Coeur d'Alene River Road to Thompson Falls/Prichard Creek Road (Mile Post 23), take Thompson Falls/Prichard Creek Road (2.6 miles) to Eagle Creek Road, take Eagle Creek Road (1/2 mile) to **439 Eagle Creek Road**, the Eagle City Park entrance on left side of road. **GPS is 47°38'51"N & 115°54'37"W**

(Continued from page 4) Autobiography

Here we found two men at work with a “long tom”—a Mr. Fernay and a Mr. Bloat. They had brought the water of a small spring to their claim and were making five or six dollars per day. We now prospected around the edge of this flat, and getting pretty fair prospects concluded we would locate here if we could get water.

We then began our search for water and found a spring about three quarters of a mile away, to which we laid claim, and with a triangle level began to survey out a route for our ditch. The survey was satisfactory, and we found we could bring the water out high on the flat, so we set to work digging at it, and turned the water in. The ground was so very dry that all the water soaked up within two hundred yards of the spring.

By this time we were out of grub, and some one must go for a new supply, and as we knew the trail to Downieville was terribly rough, I was chosen as the one to try to find Nevada City, which we thought would be nearer and more easily reached. So I started south with the donkeys, up the mountain toward the ridge which lies between the middle and south Yuba Rivers, and when I got well on the ridge I found a trail used some by wagons, which I followed till I came to a place where the ridge was only wide enough for a wagon, and at the west end a faint trail turned off south into the rolling hills. I thought this went about the course I wanted to go, so I followed it, and after two or three miles came to the south Yuba river. This seemed to be an Indian trail, no other signs on it. I climbed the mountain here, and when I reached the top I found a large tent made of blue drilling, and here I found I was four or five miles from Nevada City with a good trail to follow. The rolling hills I then passed through are now called North Bloomfield, and at one time were known as “Humbug.”

I started along the trail and soon reached the city where I drove my donkeys up to a store which had out the sign “Davis & Co..” I entered and inquiring the prices of various sorts of provisions such as flour, bacon, beans, butter, etc., soon had selected enough for two donkey loads. They assisted me in putting them in pack, and when it was ready I asked the amount of my bill, which was one hundred and fifty dollars. This I paid at once, and they gave me some crackers and dried beef for lunch on the way. Davis said—“That is the quickest sale I ever made, and here the man is ready to go. I defy any one to beat it.” Before sun down I was two or three miles on my way back where I found some grass and camped for the night, picketed the animals, ate some of Mr. Davis' grub for supper, and arranged a bed of saddle blankets. I arrived at camp the next day about sun down.

Next day I went on up the divide and found a house on the trail leading farther east, where two men lived, but they seemed to be doing nothing. There were no

mines and miners near there, and there seemed to be very little travel on the trail. The fellows looked rough, and I suspected they might be bad characters. The stream they lived near was afterward called Bloody Run, and there were stories current that blood had been shed there.

Here was a section of comparatively level land, for the mountain divide, and a fine spring of good cold water, all surrounded by several hundred acres of the most magnificent sugar pines California ever raised, very large, straight as a candle, and one hundred feet or more to the lowest limbs. This place was afterward called Snow Tent, and S. W. Churchill built a sawmill at the spring, and had all this fine timber at the mercy of his ax and saw, without anyone to dispute his right. He furnished lumber to the miners at fifty dollars or more per thousand feet. Bloody Run no doubt well deserves its name, for there was much talk of killing done there.

I, however, went up and talked to the men and told them I wished to hire a cross cut saw for a few days to get out stuff for a cabin, and agreed to pay two dollars a day for the use of it till it came back.

We cut down a large sugar pine, cut off four six feet cuts, one twelve feet, and one sixteen feet cut, and from these we split out a lot of boards which we used to make a V-shaped flume which we placed in our ditch, and thus got the water through. We split the longer cuts into two inch plank for sluice boxes, and made a small reservoir, so that we succeeded in working the ground. We paid wages to the two men who worked, and two other men who were with us went and built a cabin.

I now went and got another load of provisions, and as the snow could be seen on the high mountains to the east, I thought the deer must be crowded down to our country, so I went out hunting and killed a big fat buck, and the next day three more, so fresh meat was plenty.

About this time a man came down the mountain with his oxen and wagon, wife and three or four children, the eldest a young lady of fifteen years. The man's name was H. M. Moore. We had posted notices, according to custom, to make mining laws, and had quite a discussion about a name for the place. Some of the fellows wanted to name it after the young lady, “Minda's Flat,” but we finally chose “Moore's Flat” instead, which I believe is the name it still goes by. Our laws were soon completed, and a recorder chosen to record claims. We gave Mr. Moore the honor of having a prospecting town named after him because he was the first man to be on hand with a wife.

I became satisfied after a little that this place would be a very snowy place, and that from all appearances it would fall from two to four feet deep, and not a very pleasant place to winter in. An honest acquaintance of mine came along, Samuel Tyler and to him I let my claim to work on shares and made McCloud my agent, verbally, while I took my blankets and started for the valley.

Jinger's Gold-Con Fluid Tube

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GoldFever Mining Supply

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To be continued.....

**I really need a day between
Saturday and Sunday!**

*A number of us meet at Zips, across the
highway from the Senior Center for dinner
at 4:30pm on the day of the meeting.
Come join us!*

Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward from December 31, 2020	\$10,341.64
Interest:	\$ 0.18
Club Memberships:	\$ 235.00
Gold Show Booths:	\$ 499.50
Total income	\$ 734.68
Consumer Cellular:	\$ 17.86
Northwest Offset Printing:	\$ 353.96
Idaho State Tax Commission:	\$ 1.80
Mary Lowe: (Club Supplies)	\$ 6.72
Gold Show Booth Refund	\$ 75.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 455.34
Ending Balance: January 31, 2021	\$10,620.98

An old man is selling watermelons...

His pricelist reads: 1 for \$3 or 3 for \$10

A young man stops by and asks to buy one watermelon.
"That'd be 3 dollars", says the old man.

The young man then buys another one, and another one, paying \$3 for each.

As the young man is walking away, he turns around, grins, and says,

(Continued on page 9) Watermelons

Important!

If you have any digital photos of any prospecting / mining activities, outings, meetings, wildlife, etc., that you would be willing to share, please email or send copies of them to me to be included in a digital photo slideshow.

Also, I would be interested in getting future photos covering the same topics as above. Slideshows are a great draw at meetings and gold shows. Also, I can use them in the Nugget News.

Send to: bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com

Thanks.....Bob

After years of digging, two gold prospector enthusiasts finally found a small amount of the precious metal,

It was a miner success.

Eagle City Park Memberships for Sale

#95 Robin & Becky Bird (208)691-1721
#55 & 56 James Bonham (208)582-2471
#63 Mark & Lisa Wenig (208)687-2072
#68 & 69 Margie Coe (208)660-7795
#85, 86 & 87 Doug & Cathy Boseth (208)773-4701

Share With Your Friends
Eagle City Park Video at:
<http://youtu.be/0lzZnkOJaVk>

Prospector

By Charles M. Skinner, 1896

Tom Bowers, who mined on Misery Hill, near Pike City, California, never had a partner, and he never took kindly to the rough crowd about the place. One day he was missing. They traced his steps through the snow from his cabin to the brink of a great slope where he had been prospecting, but there they vanished, for a landslide had blotted them out. His body was exhumed far below and decently buried, yet it was said that it was so often seen walking about the mouth of his old shaft that other men avoided the spot.

Thriftless Jim Brandon, in a spasm of industry, began work on the abandoned mine, and for a while he made it pay, for he got money and squared accounts with his creditors; but after a time it appeared that somebody else was working on the claim, for every morning he found that the sluice had been tampered with and the water turned on. He searched for the trespasser in vain, and told "the boys" that if they called that joking it had grown tiresome.

One night he loaded his rifle, and, from a convenient nook, he watched for the intruder. The tamaracks crooned in the wind, the Yuba mumbled in the canon, the Sierras lay in a line of white against the stars. As he crept along to a point of better vantage he came to a tree with something tacked on it —something that shone in the dark like a match. In its own light he read, "Notice! I, Thomas Bowers, claim this ground for placer mining." Raising his hand to tear off the paper, he was amazed to feel a thrill pass through it, and his arm fell palsied at his side. But the notice was gone.

Now came the sound of water flowing, and, as he angrily caught his gun and turned toward the sluice, the letters shone again in phosphorescence on the tree. There was the sound of a pick in the gravel now, and, crawling stealthily towards the sluice, he saw, at work there, Tom Bowers — dead, lank, his head and face covered with white hair, his eyes glowing from black sockets. Half unconsciously Jim brought his rifle to his shoulder and fired. A yell followed the report, then the dead man came running at him like the wind, with pick and shovel in either hand.

Away went Brandon, and the spectre followed, up hill, in and out of woods, over ditches, through scrub, on toward Pike City. The miners were celebrating a new find with liberal potatoes and a dance in the saloon when, high above

(Continued on page 8) Prospector

A Must Have Book

“Fists Full of Gold”

By Chris Ralph

Cover Price \$29.95

ISBN: 978-0-9842692-0-4

Goldstone Publishing; 362-pages



Some tools of a Prospector!

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I don't always work.....

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GOLD PROSPECTING
~ AND ~
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Claims & Gold Show Chairman:

Mark Cook

Activities: Open

Nomination: Open

Law and Regulations: Wayne McCarroll

Legislation Liaison:

Internet Website: Bill Izzard

Programs: Open

Financial Audit: Open

Note: If you would like to become an officer of the Association or a member of any of our committees, please contact one of the board members above. A club or association is only as good as those who volunteer their talent and time!

(Continued from page 6) Prospector

the crash of boots, the shouted jokes, the laughter, and the clink of glasses, came a sound of falling, a scream-then silence.

They hurried into the road. There lay Brandon's rifle, and a pick and shovel with "T. B." cut in the handles. Jim returned no more, and the sluice is running every night on Misery Hill.

Charles Skinner, 1896. Compiled and edited by Kathy Weiser/Legends of America, updated October 2020.

About the Author: Charles M. Skinner (1852-1907) authored the complete nine volume set of *Myths and Legends of Our Own Land* in 1896. This tale is excerpted from these excellent works. However, it is not verbatim as it has been edited for clarity and ease of the modern reader.

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A Future Gold Prospector

A geology student wants to sit in an empty chair next to one of his teachers at lunch. However, the teacher looked at the student with an arrogant face and said: 'A swan shan't be friends with a pig.'

'Then I shall fly on,' answered the student with a smile.

The teacher was clearly vexed by the cheeky reply and decided to make sure to do everything in his power to fail the student.

At the oral exam, he gave the student the hardest questions, but the student had amazing answers for everything. Therefore, hoping he could still fail his victim, the teacher asked him a trickier question:

'You're walking on a road and you find two bags. One contains gold, the other cleverness. Which bag do you choose?'

'The gold.'

'Unfortunately, I don't agree. I'd choose cleverness because that's more important than money.'

'Everyone would choose what they don't have,' says the student.

The teacher turns red, and he's so angry he writes "ass" on the student's paper. The student leaves without looking at the paper. However, he returns shortly, gives back his paper and says:

'Excuse me sir, you signed my paper, but you forgot to give me my grade!'

2021 Club Calendar

All future meetings are on hold at the moment. Look to this calendar for any changes in meeting dates, times and other activities. Stay safe and try to enjoy yourselves.

March 13th & 14th

May 15th

June 12th

July 10th or 17th

August 14th

September 11th

October 16th

Gold & Treasure Show

First Outing & Claims Tour

Outing

Outing

Outing

Outing & Pig Roast

Last Outing & Chili Feed

**All dates are subject to change & other events
will be added when dates are known.
Check back often.**

Please email:

bob@goldfeverminingsupply.com

of any changes of your email address or home address to ensure delivery of your newsletter each month!

**The joys of parenting are never fully
experienced until the children are in bed!**

HELP!

One of our members just purchased a box of mining equipment from the widow of a deceased gold prospector. In the box were several snuffer bottles with about 10 pieces of small diameter copper wire about 3 inches long in each one. Other than storing the wire, does anyone know any other reason why one would have copper wire in snuffer bottles?

See below for a couple of possible solutions:

The copper wire in a snuffer bottle could be used to attract the amalgam if the concentrates were mixed with a little mercury. This would work like the old timers did in years past. They used copper gold pans coated with mercury to attract the gold from their concentrates as did the use of copper plates in sluice boxes, stamp mills and in the boil boxes in the old bucket dredges.

OR

In some gold extraction practices, mercury is used to separate the fine gold from the black sands. This is accomplished by making an amalgam of the gold and mercury. The amalgam is then put into a solution of nitric acid and water. The nitric acid reacts with the amalgam in such a way that the gold drops out of the solution. To recover the mercury, the solution is put into a snuffer bottle (be sure your bottle is (Acetal, Polycarbonate, Polyethylene, PPS, PPSU, PSU, PTFE, PVDF, Ultem or Bepel Sp-1) with copper wire. The copper wire will draw the mercury from the solution. There are a multitude of ways to extract gold chemically, but most are dangerous, deadly or down-right illegal. Do your homework!

Anyone else know why?

The Last Request

An old prospector was dying he invites 3 of his old mining partners to his deathbed and asks a favor...

He says, "We have been partners for longer than I can remember, and while I squandered all my gold and money, I'd like to bring some wealth with me when I die. If you could see in your hearts and each leave \$5,000 in my coffin, it would bring me great peace and happiness."

The three men saw no fault in this, as they were all extraordinarily rich from their mining partnership and decided to grant their friends last wish.

Jim brought the five thousand in large bills, so as not to occupy much space in the coffin.

Michael feared that the dead had no use for paper money, so he converted the five thousand into gold for his friend, leaving the ingots next to the bills in the coffin.

David was always the brains of the partnership and therefore, wrote a check for fifteen thousand dollars, and took the gold and bills as change.

That my friends, is better than Sam McGee's last request!

I changed my password everywhere to 'incorrect.' That way when I forget it, it...

DID YOU KNOW.....

That 1 oz. of pure gold is approx. the size of a cube of sugar? That 1 oz. of gold can be flattened out to 300 sq. ft.? That a mixture of one part nitric acid and 3 parts hydrochloric acid (*aqua regia*) will dissolve gold? That in 1966 all the refined gold in the world would make a cube 50 feet on a side?

What is gold?

Symbol: AU
Atomic Weight: 196.967
Atomic Number: 79
Melting Point: 1063° C (1945° F)
Boiling Point: 2966° C ()
Specific Gravity: 19.2
MOH's Scale of Hardness: 2.5 - 3

What is a carat?

Pure gold is expressed as 24 carats. When alloyed (mixed with other metals) the following table is used to determine the carat.

24K donated by 100% Pure Gold
18K donated by 75% Pure Gold
14K donated by 58% Pure Gold
10K donated by 42% Pure Gold

How is gold weighed?

0.0648 grams = 1 grain
24 grains = 1 pennyweight (dwt.)
20 pennyweight (dwt.) = 1 troy oz.
12 troy oz. = 1 troy pound

Editor's Note

We are always looking for stories to fill our pages. Please take a minute to jot down a story (fact or fiction) and send it into me.

Tell us about your experiences, plans or ideas. Letters to the editor, pictures, jokes (clean, of course), car-toons and ads are all welcome.

Recipes, web pages of interest, email, magazine and news clippings are also needed.

A newsletter is only as good as the article and content submitted.

Please give it a try and wake up the writing genius in you.

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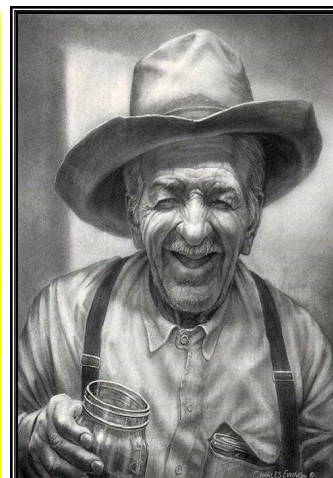
(Continued from page 6) Watermelons

"Hey old man, do you realize I just bought three watermelons for only \$9? Maybe business is not your thing."

The old man smiles and mumbles to himself, "People are funny. Every time they buy three watermelons instead of one, yet they keep trying to teach me how to do business..."

You can't beat old people!

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Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Recipe(s) of the Month

No Bake Lemon Pudding Pie

Ingredients

1 ready-to-use graham cracker or shortbread crust
2 boxes (3.4 oz each) lemon instant pudding mix *do not prepare according to package directions*
2 cups whole milk *or half and half*
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
1/4 cup powdered sugar

Instructions

Combine lemon instant pudding mix, whole milk, and fresh lemon juice in a mixing bowl. Whisk together until pudding is thick, about 2 minutes. Let sit for 5 minutes so it can thicken. While the pudding is sitting to thicken make the whipped cream. In a mixing bowl with a handheld blender, or use the bowl of a stand mixer, beat the heavy whipping cream and powdered sugar until stiff peaks form. This takes about 5 minutes.

Spread 1 1/2 cups of the lemon pudding into the graham cracker crust.

Add half of the freshly whipped cream into the remaining lemon pudding mix and stir together until combined. Spread over the lemon pudding in the pie crust.

Top the pie with the remaining whipped cream. You can either spread it on as the 3rd layer immediately OR you can pipe it on the edges of the pie (as shown in the pictures) after the refrigeration time and before serving.

Cover with the enclosed lid from the graham cracker crust and let refrigerate for at least 8 hours before serving. For best results make the night before and let it sit in the fridge overnight.

The Wisdom of Eagle City Ed

There is always ups and downs in our lives, so up the music, down the cocktails and make the most of what you've got!

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*It's only a matter of time when
"Security Cameras of Walmart"
become a hit reality show!*

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