



The Miner's Inch

A Melodramatic Comedy

August 2025 Volume 8-25

Special Edition



*The Great El Dorado Gold Train
Robbery”*

In the future, when great train robberies and robbers are being discussed around a campfire like Jesse James, the Dalton Gang, the Youngers, Black Bart, Murietta both of these last two in California and the Bullion Bend Robbery in Pollock Pines in our own county history, there will be one that will always be talked about The “Famous Robbery of the El Dorado County Gold Train” in this county.

It was so cleverly conceived and executed by the “Gangs of Five” which became the “Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch “ that few suspected it at all. Millions of dollars were quietly set up to be taken under the very noses of the people that were to be the victims.

Instrumental to the robbery was the creation of a “salary limitation” car of the El Dorado Gold Train No. 504 passed by unsuspecting riders in 1997. Slowly, the heist began to move forward with changes and amendments without any rider approval apparently, which was part of the heist. More members of the “Outriders” added on as years passed under the sleepy eyes of riders who were just along for the ride.

Under the watchful eyes of the “Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch” the heist moved forward, and millions were setup for future delivery into bank accounts.

Any attempt to bring this out in the open was met with indifference to the riders of the train by the train robbers if not just plainly ignored. It was done behind closed car doors safe from the possible prying eyes of a rider waking up to go to the back of the train for a constitutional. The robbery continues today and many of the robbers will ride off into the sunset with a “golden handshake” also for all their effort.

Add to this the bankruptcy of the county from overspending and applying for and taking money from grants. The “Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch” being so successful at the train robbery of the 504 Gold Train have broadened their activities into other ventures also.

All of this made possible by a lack of conscience common sense, compassion and fiduciary responsi-

bility to the sleeping riders who will one day wakeup a victim of the big heist.

Oh What a Tangled Web We Weave, When First We Think to Deceive!!!

Section 504. Sheriff Salary Limitation **(Per existing El Dorado County Charter)**

The Sheriff's Salary initiative, commonly known as Measure A, and passed by a majority of the voters at a general election on November 7, 1972, is hereby repealed.

The Board of Supervisors shall, at least annually determine the existing average salaries for the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol for each class of position employed by said agencies.

Effective on the first day of January of each year after this charter provision first becomes effective, the Board of Supervisors shall adjust and determine that the average salary for each class of position as set forth herein be at least equal to the average of the salaries for the comparable positions in the South Lake Tahoe Police Department,

Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol.

As used herein, the term "comparable class of "position" shall mean a group of positions substantially similar with respect to qualifications or duties or responsibilities using the following positions as guidelines:

Under sheriff - Captain
Lieutenant -Sergeant
Deputy Sheriff -Clerk

The provisions of this section shall prevail over any otherwise conflicting provisions of this charter or general law which may relate to salaries of County officers or employees who are **NOT** elected by popular vote. [Amended by Charter Amendment ratified November 7, 1995, effective

January 26, 1996; Stats. 1996, ch. 2] (El Dorado County Charter)The Sheriff's Salary initiative, commonly known as Measure A, and passed by a majority of the voters at a general election on November 7, 1972, is hereby repealed.

You will hear a lot about Section 504 of the

El Dorado County Charter. We, as taxpayers of this county, have been taken advantage of for many years because of this section. You may ask yourself how and why? Here are some key words in this Section.

There are words that are stated that are cleverly worded, in my opinion. Words like “**Sheriff’s Salary Limitation**” and average salary for each class of position computed from taking the average of **comparable** positions and salaries in other police agencies using the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff’s Department and drum roll please, the California Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol is the **spoiler** that pushes the average into the stratosphere. It is **nowhere comparable** to the Sheriff’s Office of El Dorado County. It does not fit “**comparable class of position**” as stated in the charter.

Here is another part of the Section 504 that has been added to allow **OTHER** county employees to be added to the salary average “general law which may relate to salaries of County Officers or employees who are **NOT** elected by popular vote.”

With this in mind, the District Attorney, The County Counsel, Public Defender and County Administrative Officer are currently tied into this section for salaries. They have no connection with the Sheriff's Office. Rumor has it code enforcement officers may be linked in as well. The past County Administrative Officer worked long enough at his new salary for three months and retired with a nice **"Golden Handshake"** to maybe parts unknown.

Now, ask yourself where was the **"Gang of Five"**? Sitting on their hands as usual. (REALLY???) They hate to make any decision on their own. If they cannot hire an outside consultant for "X" dollars to tell them what to do, they rely on guidance from the County Counsel, County Administrative Officer, staff or an advisory committee for something or if all else fails, developers, SACOG (Sacramento Area Council of Governments), **just not their constituents that elected them to office.** The day is coming very soon when many of us will be left holding the bag including employees.

FACT SHEET

CHARTER SECTION 504

The El Dorado County Charter, Section 504 was amended by nearly 70% of voters on November 7, 1995, and became effective on January 26, 1996. The Charter included six employee classifications which currently account for 182 personnel allocations in the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office.

Charter Section 504 states:

504. Sheriff's Salary Limitation.

The Sheriff's Salary initiative, commonly known as Measure A, and passed by a majority of the voters at a general election on November 7, 1972, is hereby repealed.

The Board of Supervisors shall, at least annually determine the existing average salaries for the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol for each class of position employed by said agencies. Effective on the first day of January of each year after this charter provision first becomes effective, the Board of Supervisors shall adjust and determine that the average salary for each class of position as

set forth herein be at least equal to the average of the salaries for the comparable positions in the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol.

As used herein, the term "comparable class of position" shall mean a group of positions substantially similar with respect to qualifications or duties or responsibilities using the following positions as guidelines:

Undersheriff Captain Lieutenant Sergeant Deputy Sheriff

Clerk (this classification is no longer in use)

The provisions of this section shall prevail over any otherwise conflicting provisions of this charter or general law which may relate to salaries of County officers or employees who are not elected by popular vote.

How Charter Section 504 is Implemented

The Department of Human Resources conducts an annual survey of the comparator agency (South Lake Tahoe Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department, and California Highway Patrol) classifi-

cations. Using the Deputy Sheriff II as the benchmark classification, the survey determines the percentage increases that those employment classifications tied to Charter Section 504 will receive. Per the Charter, a Resolution is brought to the Board to approve the increase effective the pay period including January 1st of each year.

In addition to the six classifications specified in the Charter, the Board of Supervisors has either through labor union negotiations with represented employee associations or by Board Resolution added 11 employment classifications. The classifications not specifically included in Charter Section 504 that are tied to the Charter by negotiated Memorandum of Understanding or Board of Supervisors Resolution are:

- o Alternate Public Defender
- o Chief Administrative Officer
- o Chief Investigator, District Attorney
- o Chief Probation Officer
- o County Counsel

- o District Attorney
- o Investigator, District Attorney
- o Lieutenant, District Attorney (title change from Assistant Chief Investigator)
- o Public Defender
- o Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator (the Sheriff is also the Coroner and Public Administrator)
- o Supervising Investigator, District Attorney

Including the 182 El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office personnel allocations, and the 24 personnel allocations that the Board has added, there are 206 total personnel allocations in the County with salaries tied to Charter Section 504, as detailed in the Table below: Table can be found online at the following county website; bos.edc.ca.gov The Table is just filler information to make the fact sheet look more official.

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Please do not be mislead or fooled by this “FACT SHEET”. The only **real fact** that it is a last minute justification for all that has been taken place behind close doors, probably in violation of the Brown Act

which is Standard Operating Procedure at Mt. El Dorado.

The “Gangs of Five”, now the “Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch” have been doing what they do **BEST**. Sitting on their hands, ignoring legitimate concern expressed by public citizens requesting this be put on an Agenda for public discussion and **NOT** on **The “Infamous Consent Calendar”** where the decision has probably already been done away from public eyes.

I brought this issue up to the Charter Review Committee five years ago about removing the California Highway Patrol from the calculation of the average used for salaries. This addition pushes the average up when the current California Highway Patrol Commandant is paid \$700,000+. They took under consideration and eventually wound up at “The Gang of Five” weekly poker game. Instead of a winning hand they threw “down five jokers” and said they had to hire a consultant to tell them what to do. **Stall No. 1**, then became putting the issue on the next general election 2+years down the road, **Stall No. 2** which gave time for apparently one high paid official the County administrative Officer to collect his

new salary long enough to get qualified at a higher retirement paycheck for his CalPers retirement.

(Newsflash: A week before or so before the announcement of the departure of our present County Administrative Officer with a very rewarding salary of Step Four. “The Preacher and Madam Minn” were spotted at a local Placerville Drive eatery enjoying food with the past County Administrative Officer. Is “Darth Vader” making a comeback????)

Section 504 was created years ago to help our on the street deputies, men and women to be comparable to other agencies which paid higher wages. It was not designed and created for “The Outriders of Dry Gulch” who sit in a chair and collect high six figure salaries flying a desk.

We have to stop Section 504 from continuing as it has been manipulated by the people that are profiting from it financially now because our CalPers retirement liability will only increase proportionately due to these bloated salaries.

According to the Fact Sheet, there are 206 people at present tied to this section with salaries of possibly \$200,000 with more to come. If we chose a salary of \$200,000 for 206 employees yields a debt of \$41,200,000.

No wonder they cannot balance the budget. Their actions past and present have ignored and violated their fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of this county.

Concerned citizens were told when they asked to agendaize this matter for public input at a card game, “The Three Desperadoes and Madam Minn” would consider it all the time knowing of their action taken supposedly on December 10, 2024, five months earlier and were concluding labor contracts with county employee unions at the same time.

Coincidentally, at the same time the “Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn” raised their salaries. They have always been paid less than “The Outriders From Dry Gulch”. Maybe they attached themselves to Section 504. Nothing surprises me anymore.

Here is another thought, these salaries are supposed to be tied to comparable positions in the California Highway Patrol right??? I didn’t know they had a chief administrative officer, county counsel or district attorney on staff.

The Days of Wine & Roses Is Only A Fleeting Memory in the Penal Colony!!!

A day when **tough choices** will have to be made for this county is approaching quickly. The looming future budget deficit (???,???,???) is just a preliminary wakeup call for **all** of us. Too many years of "**living the good life**" on government grants with no oversight is coming **HOME TO US**, One and All. **WE** are along for the ride because "The **Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch**" have failed in their fiduciary responsibility to **US**.

Even the "**penal colony**", aka El Dorado County is not exempt from its turn in the "**bucket of doodoo**". Why do I say this?. Months ago, the "**Gang and the Outriders from Dry Gulch**" bragged about a new budget of **\$1.1 billion dollars**. (Really???)

Let's do some math. \$1,100,000,000 divided by 195,000 people in the county (men, women & children) and the result is \$5,128.21 per person.

There is that word again, “**grants**”. Now let us get to the icing on the cake and retirement costs to CalPers, salaries and medical for some county employees, the top 100 in 2024 per county paperwork available from the county. There are 100 people with total cost to us per year ranging from \$495,784.12-\$ 232,915.00.

Now let us see where the most money comes from into **"penal colony" coffers: government grants, state and federal at 50.1% of the proposed budget.**

Simple math, that leaves 49.9 % of the county coffers comes from businesses???, agriculture??? property taxes, fees, fines DTOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) a slush fund, in my opinion for all the wants of our county government and the "gang", just not used as intended for road maintenance another story

Sounds good on paper, right? **Problem**, the grants could be going away, if they already have not been canceled. The State of California is seeking loans for medical care for **illegal aliens**.

We have our own people to worry about. I have never heard of the State of California asking for a loan. We have the homeless problem that the gov-

ernment publicly wishes would go away, wrong it is a good money maker for ??????? with grants.

Problem, the current infrastructure will not handle it, in my opinion. Thanks to the **skillful leadership** of "**past and present gang members and the days of wine and roses are over. Ooo-ppp-sss!!!** Wait the cavalry is coming. Sorry, it is just "**The Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch**", doing what they do best, spend, spend and sit on their hands. They will approve new large-scale developments to collect more property taxes and developer's fees by doing this to balance their champagne budgets at our expense and lifestyle. Why, you might ask. Simple. No lumber industry or mining. Tourism and agriculture on the ropes from high water prices and not saving our unique history, the "**Gold Rush**" to help tourism.

Problem, No matter how much or little our Department of Transportation aka the "**Black Hole**" shovels cold mix into potholes, the fact remains that our roads were in better shape 70 years ago, in my opinion. When warm weather arrives, pot-

holes will bloom like flowers because of the **lack** of maintenance?????

Even recent overlays like Pleasant Valley Road are failing because of the “**cheaper fix**” according to a recent statement by the “**Keeper of the Black Hole**” aka the Department of Transportation at a recent meeting.

We are facing a major financial impact because our roads have not been maintained properly. They will only get worse with the lack of grant money. They will continue disappearing in the dust. Again, the Department of Transportation according to the “**Keeper of the Black Hole**” said recently at a meeting that they use “**cheaper alternatives**”. We cannot afford the cheaper fix anymore and redo it within a year.

We do not have the water to support a larger population because again of the “**skillful leadership**”??? The Texas Hill Reservoir site is being considered for selling to developers by the El Dorado Irrigation District. The county gave this land to EID to serve for future water supply for Placer-

ville and the surrounding area as well as recreation.

Even the "**Sheriff of Nottingham & Version 2.0** has been busy acquiring all kinds equipment and military hardware like drones, 2 helicopters, \$385,000 of ammunition which is a yearly expense, new vehicles, an incident command trailer (2) and much more plus the annual payment of \$2,000,000 to pay the cost of the "**New Crystal Citadel**" aka " the public safety building".

The people in Diamond Springs will be happy to know that the much heralded and promised bypass is still maybe four additional years away according to "**the Keeper of the Black Hole**" because road construction in the West part of the county is being done for the arrival of Costco as part of the County Improvement Plan. Surely, we do not want to rush into anything quickly, right?

Hold the presses!!!!, they have started clearing and grubbing the site for construction in what year will it be completed?? the Spring of 2030 or the fall of 2035 year????? How have they planned to mitigate environmental waste area concerns? Caldor Lumber's old engine shed-Teter's wrecking yard or even Diamond Lime's **questionable** contamination of

Webber Creek.

The county needs your help going forward. **You make the decisions** for a change, not the **six figure appointees** which are part of the "**Outriders of the Three Desperadoes**". This is **YOUR** government, go to meetings, call your supervisor when you do not like a decision or pending action. **Together, we can change our county**. An added benefit of going to meetings or watching videos of them is because they are **better** than the situation comedy reruns on TV. Where else can you watch seven people at about 1.4 million dollars chase a gray squirrel around a tree and never use their own "common sense?"

*Will "Hangtown Rise" From the Ashes
Like the Phoenix Depends On Us!!!*

"Hangtown" once again be the fun and interesting place to live for tourists to come see and be part off or a moment? This condition has been slowly creeping forward like the "Fog" in Carl Sandberg's poem. Placerville aka "Hangtown" has lost appeal for tourists because of all the rhetoric about "Hangtown" by outsiders that did not live here about this name, which is historic and part of this county's unique heritage, people came to see "Hangtown".

We live in a "**gold mine**" of history like few other places in the world. Gold was found in Coloma in 1849, starting the one of the biggest mass migrations in world history. They came from everywhere seeking a new life, fortunes. Some failed and left some stayed and set roots here for generations.

This history attracted tourists for years to "Hangtown" and this county. Businesses prospered, people settled here and "Hangtown" had its own unique character and charm for tourists to explore. People were friendlier then and people again came and stayed. Today, "Hangtown" is struggling with its identity. Take a clear hard look at "Hangtown".

Do you see a happy friendly place or a worn out little historic town that has fallen into hard times? Even the City of Placerville has turned the other cheek. The "Historic District of Placerville" needs a face lift and not just re-stripping of Main Street. Pride needs to be found again in this town by the businesses and the people that call this home. They must demand more and lend a helping hand. With imagination, care and creativity, "Hangtown" can rise like the "**Phoenix**" of the once was to the **WILL BE** again.

To be historical, it should already be here. Keep what is left of **OUR** history like the **Clay Street Bridge**. Save what is left of **OUR Historic District** from modernization. People do not come to see downtown Milpitas, they come to see "**Hangtown**", dream and imagine what this place could have been like in 1850. Westerns have always been an attraction for people.



A Brief History of the Miner's Inch This publication and all associated with it are a **satire** on "Life In El Dorado County aka the Penal Colony". All characters portrayed are to help the story line of this **satire**. **They are fictional characters. Any similarity to real people is not intended.** With that said, let us give you the "Home of the Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch".

This publication serves as a rallying cry for action, a satirical jab at bureaucracy, and a **reminder that collective voices can lead to change**. The Min-er's Inch is not just a whimsical piece of **satire**; it is a chronicle of resilience, humor, and the spirit of a community determined to shape its own destiny.

The Editor



“Mt. El Dorado”

“Home of the Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn & the Outriders from Dry Gulch”



“America has the best politicians money can buy.” ... Will Rogers

“There are men running governments that should not be allowed to play with matches.”

Will Rogers

“A Taxpayer’s Lament”

Lord, the money they spend on government these days!

If you stacked up all the dollars funneled into the county’s coffers—helicopters, drones, ammo by the truckload, new buildings with glass shining like palaces—you’d think we’d be living in the lap of civic luxury. Yet for all these grand expenditures, can anyone honestly say things have improved over the government we got for a mere fraction of this budget a couple of decades ago? It’s as if the cost keeps ballooning but the return to the community stays flat, or worse, slides backward, lost between committees and consultant reports.

It begs the question: what are we really getting for all this spending? Are potholes filled any faster, are emergencies answered with more care, or are the same tired problems simply wearing new uniforms and driving shinier vehicles? One can’t help but wonder if the price of progress is merely the illusion of action, all flash and no substance, while residents continue to shoulder the ever increasing burden. *Author Unknown*