

THE ORANGE COUNTY FORTY-NINERS

GOLDEN AURA

December 2009

Volume: XXVII Number: XII



**DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING IS
December 15th, 2009**

It's the Holiday Dinner

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

When: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:30 pm

Where: Garden Grove Woman's Club
9501 Chapman Avenue
Garden Grove, California 92841
(Corner of Chapman and Gilbert)

Check us out on the Internet
at
www.oc49ers.com



CLUB OUTINGS

Regular scheduled outings take place the last full weekend of the month. "Regular" Club outings in November, December and January are scheduled around the Holidays and/or inclement weather.

The PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

First of all, and being politically correct, I wish you all “Happy Holidays” and hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends or however you choose to celebrate the season. As for me, the family and I will fly to New Mexico and then drive to the charming town of Santa Fe to celebrate Christmas in their holiday traditions.

As one looks back over the past year, 2009 was a mixed year for the club. We battled the BLM for our rights to prospect on some of our claims in the desert, and eventually prevailed. Then the “girlyman” governor signed away our rights to properly and effectively work our wet claims. Hopefully, with PLP’s hard work, we shall regain our rights to dredge again in the coming year. On a more positive note, Membership in the Orange County 49ers is at an all time high. Our monthly Outings as well as our two Potlucks, May and October, have been well attended. There has been some good sized nuggets found by Members and the Aura is now very representative of the quality club that were are. With many meteorologists predicting a wetter winter we can look forward to a productive 2010 mining season as the creeks and rivers will be replenished with gold, or at the least, the Delta Smelt shall survive, which I know is a concern to many.

AS REMINDERS:

Holiday Dinner: Our annual Holiday Dinner will take place on the third Tuesday of December, the 15th. Please bring a side dish to share. We will have the drawing for gold nuggets for those who renew their Membership prior to that date. There will be three lucky winners this year. It can be said, “It is a wise man that renews his Membership before the five dollar increase that becomes effective on January 1st.”

Elections: Elections for Club Officers will take place during the January meeting. Now is the time to consider if you would like to volunteer and participate in the betterment of the Club. The Officers are: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Claims Chairman, Wagon Master, and Member-at-large. If you are interested in any of these positions, contact a Board Member and inform them of your desire to be of service to the Club, as there is always a need and room for those for who wish to volunteer.

December Outing: The Monthly Outing will be held on December 5th in Goler Gulch. Over a dozen people are planning on attending the one day Outing. Details will be in the next newsletter. Our next scheduled outing will at the end of January, weather willing.

So if I do not see you at the Holiday Dinner, I do wish you and yours, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Prospecting
Steve

Christmas Found Gold Rush Miners Far From Their Homes

When Christmas came the Forty-Niners found themselves a continent away from family and friends. The holiday became a time of sad remembrances and, occasionally, furious partying to help ease the loneliness.

Even though many of the young men came from religious eastern families, the rush for gold had outpaced the organized forces of worship. A miner could plan a trip to Mission Dolores in San Francisco or the wait for the appearance in the mines of an occasional travelling man of God. Most waited.

Many personal diaries kept by miners make slight mention of Christmas, a particularly sorry day for the homesick. Most chose to ignore it, plunging into the daily work of building flumes and small dams, digging ditches, cutting wood and sometimes washing pay dirt out of the gravel or dirt out of worn clothing.

A Placer county miner listed Christmas Day as just another work day. The following year he entered a note about the weather, but no word of a celebration.

Another man came West to find his fortune sent a Christmas note back home to a friend. Inside he tucked a small, shiny nugget of gold.

A young miner from Canada, William Perkins, wrote in 1849, "My first Christmas in California I spent up to my knees in mud..." walking from Stockton to Sonora in the rain.

Of his second yule season in the mines, Perkins wrote, "Christmas Day! But why mention it in this country! It makes me sad to write the words, for they bring memories of home and civilization and household affections."

A Foresthill area miner recorded the 1857 holiday in his diary, mainly because it was also his birthday. "Well, Christmas is come again and today I am 29 years old," Aaron Lambert wrote. "Went this morning to Yankee Jim's...spent for self on clothing \$22.50." The day before Christmas Eve he wrote, "I worked today as usual at mining. Nothing new nuthing mutch is said about Christmas, some few parties is all." For some there was little reason to celebrate.

A party of Forty-Niners who would become known for their desert misadventures came upon rocks their wagons could not cross. It was Christmas. "No one felt Merry," one wrote, "but awful sad, when he could put in his hat his allotted part of the grub still left." Up ahead lay a valley that would not only consume the emigrants' little remaining food, but their endurance as well. They would be remembered as the Death Valley Party.

In other places the miners made do with what they had, and fashioned their own roughshod holiday celebrations.

"Imagine a company of enterprising and excitable young men," wrote Louise Clappe to her eastern friends, "settled upon a sandy level about as large as a poor widow's potato patch, walled in by sky-kissing hills -- absolutely compelled to remain on account of the weather."

Clappe, whose writings became known as the Shirley Letters, described a mining camp "Saternalia" during which the idled miners rewarded themselves for their endurance.

Christmas Eve 1851 at the Humboldt, a local gathering spot up the Feather river from Marysville, followed the first-ever washing of the establishment's wooden floor, a feat which required 50 pails of water. The event was fueled by mule-loads of brandy and champagne.

"At nine o'clock in the evening they had an oyster and champagne supper in the Humboldt...I believe the company danced all night; at any rate they were dancing when I went to sleep and they were dancing when I woke the next morning." The celebration went on for three days, "growing wilder every hour."

Eventually the fiddlers became exhausted, as did the oysters and wine.

There also was holiday merriment on shipboard among those eager gold hunters sailing to California. A woman headed for San Francisco reported Christmas cheers accompanied by much liquid cheer in the form of champagne. They were dancing on board the Orleans as it took them closer to their golden dreams. One ship's passenger set down this marvelous line about his Christmas afloat: "Besides a good dinner and the sight of whales, there was the prospect of a storm."

Those freshly arrived would spend a lifetime remembering their first Christmas in California, dining on wonderful foods they would have thought very ordinary "back East."

by Don Baumgart

The TREASURE'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2009

INCOME:

50-50 Income	\$ 29.00
Membership Renewal.....	1,400.00
New Membership	200.00
Raffle Income	260.00
Refreshments Income	6.00
Club Merchandise	415.00
Miscellaneous.....	10.99
Total Income.....	\$ 2,320.99

EXPENSES:

Donations.	0.00
Merchandise	1,183.96
Miscellaneous	1,650.00
Newsletters.....	507.75
October Outing.....	196.15
Porta Potties.....	136.65
Postage	0.00
Print & Reproduction	0.00
Raffle Prizes	147.36
Referrals	10.00
Refreshments	6.97
Rent.....	100.00
Web Site	0.00
Total Expenses.....	\$ 3,938.84

CHECKING ACCOUNT

11/01	Beginning Balance	5,903.21	
11/31	Ending Balance.....	4,129.33	
	Outstanding Checks	206.97	
	Check Book Balance	3,922.36	\$ 3,922.36

CERT DEP

00/00	CD Balance	2,336.39	\$ 2,336.39
	CD Statements are sent Quarterly		

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS

\$ 6,258.75

Year to Date

YTD Income	\$ 17,011.32
YTD Expenses	\$ 21,270.80

The WAGON MASTER'S REPORT

The November outing will be on
Saturday December 5th at Goler

We are thinking to meet at
8:30am at the entrance
and all drive up to the top of the claim.

This is a area that a lot of us have never been to.
we will discuss more at the meeting
and add more detail on the web site.

Our Holiday Dinner
will be December 15th
in place of our normal meeting.

This dinner is a lot of fun
plus we have a nice drawing for some
GOLD and maybe some other stuff.
So we expect to see as many of you as possible.

I will be selling Shirts and Hats at the next meeting.
The Shirts are now \$20.00 each and the Hats are \$23.00
so make sure you get all your
Christmas Shopping done at the next meeting.



The Lost Chinaman Mine

THE TALE

The California gold rush drew prospectors and adventurers from all over the world. Besides the American and native Hispanic population, Argonauts from Mexico, Australia, Chile, and China poured into the Mother Lode country during the early 1850's. The Chinese proved to be very patient and industrious prospectors. They would work claims abandoned by American miners and actually make them pay. In the goldfields and mining camps of California, the Chinese were at the bottom of the pecking order. Even the local Indians preyed on them. They were easy prey as most of the Chinese miners lacked firearms of any kind. The Chinese mining camps were frequently raided by outlaws from every ethnic group. In 1855, a Chinese camp near Drytown was attacked by Mexican bandits who robbed the miners of all their gold. A band of outlaws led by the infamous Joachin Murrieta plundered a Chinese camp on the Cosumnes River, near the Big Bar placers. They killed 6 of the miners and carried away their hard won stash of gold.

By 1852, nearly 20,000 Chinese emigrants were in California. The Chinese brought their language and culture with them to their new home. They also brought their "tongs". These secret Chinese societies sprouted up in the various mining camps of the Sierra Nevadas. Occasionally they clashed with each other. In 1854, a ten-minute battle between two tong armies near Weaverville left 8 men dead and 6 wounded. Two years later, another tong battle near Chinese Camp took the lives of 4 men.

Chinese miners eventually showed up in virtually every mining district in the American West, but were most abundant in the California goldfields. Even the Death Valley camps saw the occasional Chinese miner. During the early 1900's, such a miner was working at the famous Eagle Borax Works, located at the bottom of Death Valley.

Death Valley's most famous prospector, "Shorty" Harris, was working at Searles Lake for a short period of time during the early 1900's. "Shorty" was a Death Valley legend. Most prospectors never make a major strike. Only a very select few are lucky enough to make one big strike. "Shorty" Harris made two! His discoveries at Harrisburg in the Panamint Range and at Rhyolite in the Bullfrog Hills of Nevada made him a good judge of rich ore. While at Searles Lake, "Shorty" got a chance to see some incredibly rich gold ore.

"Shorty" Harris was working at the lake one day during the early 1900's when a Chinese borax miner from Death Valley staggered into the valley. The Chinaman pulled out a handful of gold ore and showed it to "Shorty". It was nearly pure gold! The exhausted Chinaman claimed that he had stumbled on a ledge of the stuff while crossing the Panamint Range. The ledge was in a steep, tree-covered canyon on the eastern flank of the range. "Shorty" Harris spent a number of years searching for the Chinaman's ledge, but he never found it. It still lies hidden in the trees, somewhere on the eastern flanks of the Panamints.

MINING HISTORY

The history of mining in the beautiful Panamint Range really begins with the discovery of fabulously rich silver deposits near the head of Surprise Canyon in 1873. Located by outlaws hiding out in the canyon, the rich silver lodes spawned a mining camp called Panamint City. Unfortunately, the boom was short-lived. By 1876, the silver had run out and the mines began closing.

The Panamints languished for 24 years until the discovery of rich gold deposits only 7 miles south of Panamint City, in Pleasant Canyon. The mining camp that sprang up at the foot of the mountains was named after the famous Australian gold camp known as Ballarat. The mines at Ballarat produced nearly 50,000 ounces of gold during their lifetimes.

Prospectors now poured over the Panamints in search of mineral wealth. In 1905, "Shorty" Harris and Pete Aguerreberry discovered rich gold and silver deposits near Emigrant Canyon. A small mining camp sprang up nearby. Named after "Shorty" Harris, the town of Harrisburg never really got its feet off the ground. The veins were quickly depleted and the mines closed down in 1908.

The Harrisburg discoveries were almost immediately followed by the biggest strike of all in the Panamints. In 1906, massive gold deposits were discovered only 7 miles northwest of Harrisburg. The mining town of Skidoo rose up nearby as prospectors and mining men poured into the area. The ore deposits were mostly low grade but they were immense. The mines of Skidoo eventually produced nearly 200,000 ounces of gold before closing down for good.

GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

The Panamint Mountains are an uplifted block of ancient Precambrian to Cambrian metamorphic and sedimentary rocks intruded by small Mesozoic granitic plutons. Examples include the granites of Manly Peak, those near Panamint, and the granitic rocks near Harrisburg and Skidoo. Younger Tertiary volcanics occur on the southernmost spur of the range, south of Manly Peak. As stated above, the majority of the rocks in the Panamint Range consist of ancient Precambrian to Cambrian metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. For the most part, the western flank of the range is comprised of Precambrian metamorphic and sedimentary basement rock, while the eastern flank is made up of slightly younger Precambrian to Cambrian marine sedimentary rocks. The western front of the range is bounded by a major fault zone, the Death Valley Fault Zone. The fault and mountain range both trend slightly west of north.

PROSPECTING POTENTIAL

Compared to most of the mountain ranges in California's Mojave Desert region, the Panamint Mountains are richly endowed with forest cover and timbered canyons. A large belt of timber extends from Bald Peak and Wildrose Canyon southward to the mountain peaks above Ballarat. This belt of timber and forest runs north-south for a distance of about 20 miles. Prospectors may want to concentrate on the canyons and ravines that slice the eastern flanks of the range and that lie within the timber belt mentioned above. A search for gold-bearing float in each of the canyon floors may prove fruitful. A metal-detector would certainly be useful in the search.

by Geology Park LLC

Prospecting for Gold in the United States

Anyone who pans for gold hopes to be rewarded by the glitter of colors in the fine material collected in the bottom of the pan. Although the exercise and outdoor activity experienced in prospecting are rewarding, there are few thrills comparable to finding gold. Even an assay report showing an appreciable content of gold in a sample obtained from a lode deposit is exciting. The would-be prospector hoping for financial gain, however, should carefully consider all the pertinent facts before deciding on a prospecting venture.

Only a few prospectors among the many thousands who searched the western part of the United States ever found a valuable deposit. Most of the gold mining districts in the West were located by pioneers, many of whom were experienced gold miners from the southern Appalachian region, but even in colonial times only a small proportion of the gold seekers were successful. Over the past several centuries the country has been thoroughly searched by prospectors. During the depression of the 1930's, prospectors searched the better known gold-producing areas throughout the Nation, especially in the West, and the little-known areas as well. The results of their activities have never been fully documented, but incomplete records indicate that an extremely small percentage of the total number of active prospectors supported themselves by gold mining. Of the few significant discoveries reported, nearly all were made by prospectors of long experience who were familiar with the regions in which they were working.

The lack of outstanding success in spite of the great increase in prospecting during the depression in the 1930's confirms the opinion of those most familiar with the occurrence of gold and the development of gold mining districts that the best chances of success lie in systematic studies of known productive areas rather than in efforts to discover gold in hitherto unproductive areas. The development of new, highly sensitive, and relatively inexpensive methods of detecting gold, however, has greatly increased the possibility of discovering gold deposits which are too low grade to have been recognized earlier by the prospector using only a gold pan. These may be large enough to be exploited by modern mining and metallurgical techniques. The Carlin mine near Carlin, Nev., is producing gold from a large low-grade deposit that was opened in 1965 after intensive scientific and technical work had been completed. Similar investigations have led to the more recent discovery of a Carlin-type gold deposit in Jerritt Canyon, Nev.

Many believe that it is possible to make wages or better by panning gold in the streams of the West, particularly in regions where placer mining formerly flourished. However, most placer deposits have been thoroughly reworked at least twice--first by Chinese laborers, who arrived soon after the initial boom periods and recovered gold from the lower grade deposits and tailings left by the first miners, and later by itinerant miners during the 1930's. Geologists and engineers who systematically investigate remote parts of the country find small placer diggings and old prospect pits whose number and wide distribution imply few, if any, recognizable surface indications of metal-bearing deposits were overlooked by the earlier miners and prospectors.

One who contemplates prospecting for gold should realize that a successful venture does not necessarily mean large profits even if the discovery is developed into a producing mine. Although the price of gold has increased significantly since 1967

when the fixed price of \$35 an ounce was terminated, the increases in the cost of virtually every supply and service item needed in prospecting and mining ventures have kept profit margins at moderate levels, particularly for the small mine operator. In general, wide fluctuations in the price of gold are not uncommon, whereas inflationary pressures are more persistent. The producer of gold, therefore, faces uncertain economic problems and should be aware of their effects on his operation.

Today's prospector must determine where prospecting is permitted and be aware of the regulations under which he is allowed to search for gold and other metals. Permission to enter upon privately owned land must be obtained from the land owner. Determination of land ownership and location and contact with the owner can be a time-consuming chore but one which has to be done before prospecting can begin.

Determination of the location and extent of public lands open to mineral entry for prospecting and mining purposes also is a time consuming but necessary requirement. National parks, for example, are closed to prospecting. Certain lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management may be entered for prospecting, but sets of rules and regulations govern entry. The following statement from a pamphlet issued in 1978 by the U.S. Department of the Interior and entitled "Staking a mining claim on Federal Lands" responds to the question "Where May I Prospect?"

There are still areas where you may prospect, and if a discovery of a valuable, locatable mineral is made, you may stake a claim. These areas are mainly in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Such areas are mainly unreserved, unappropriated Federal public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior and in national forests administered by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Public land records in the proper BLM State Office will show you which lands are closed to mineral entry under the mining laws. These offices keep up-to-date land status plats that are available to the public for inspection. BLM is publishing a series of surface and mineral ownership maps that depict the general ownership pattern of public lands. These maps may be purchased at most BLM Offices. For a specific tract of land, it is advisable to check the official land records at the proper BLM State Office.

Successful gold mining under present conditions is a large-scale operation, utilizing costly and sophisticated machinery capable of handling many tons of low-grade ore each day. The grizzled prospector with a burro is no longer a significant participant in the search for mineral deposits, and the small producer accounts for only a minor share of the total production of metals including gold.

Some degree of success in finding gold still remains for those choosing favorable areas after a careful study of mining records and the geology of the mining districts. Serious prospecting should not be attempted by anyone without sufficient capital to support a long and possibly discouraging campaign of preliminary work. The prospective gold seeker must have ample funds to travel to and from the region he selects to prospect and to support the venture. He must be prepared to undergo physical hardships, possess a car capable of traveling the roughest and steepest roads, and not be discouraged by repeated disappointments. Even if a discovery of value is not found, the venture will have been interesting and challenging.

by Harold Kirkemo

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBER

Schoue, David & John
760-403-4726
11168 Hemlock Ave.
Hesperia, CA 92345

NEW MEMBER

Clayton, Jim & Eva
541-569-9862
96201 Cape Ferrello Rd.
Brookings, OR 97415
jlcinc@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBER

Cobb, Charles
805-454-2185
1150 Ventura Blvd. Sp 58
Camarillo, CA 963010

NEW MEMBER

Correll, Bill & Lynn
928-927-9220
PO Box 2097
Quartsite, AZ 85346
bcorrell@tds.net

NEW MEMBER

Johnson, Jimmie
423-453-0130
1560 Moore Rd.
Georgetown, TN 37336
ozark_gator46@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBER

Kelton, Casey & Lisa
512-497-7203
600 Laurel Ave.
Oakdale, CA 95361
ckelton@aol.com

NEW MEMBER

Landis, Roger "Dutch" & Sandy
408-368-7846
PO Box 91
Johannesburg, CA 93528

NEW MEMBER

Mangan, William & Velvet
714-323-5530
22372 Harwich Ln
Huntington Bch, CA 92646
wmangan@verizon.net

NEW MEMBER

Musarra, Anthony
6566 Caliente Rd. Ste G
Oak Hills, CA 92344

NEW MEMBER

Stovall, Ken & Christina
661-366-5791
4013 Goodyear Ct.
Bakersfield, CA 93306
hskrfan36@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBER

Swick, Harmon & Joyce
661-832-6796
4100 Tyndall Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93313

NEW MEMBER

Trent, Stephen & Sandra
360-402-1922
PO Box 446
Napavine, WA 98565
audigger22@aol.com

NEW MEMBER

Rymer, R.L.
4508A Atlantic Ave. #745
Long Beach, CA 90807

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2009

NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING

PEDERSEN'S METAL DETECTORS

Pedersen's has been sold and the new owners are Scott & Jennifer Reynolds.

We invite Members to stop by the store. 100's of new items and books.

Buy, Sell, Trade New and Used Detectors and Mining stuff.

Wanted Metal Detectors & Mining Stuff

WE PAY CASH.

LITTLE KNOWN HISTORICAL FACTS

LUCY HIGGINS

By: **Jerry "Soft Nugget" Bame**

Member, Orange County 49'ers Club

Prospectors had difficulty in the "old days" getting supplies and food - - particularly, prepared food (edible food).

Even if a Prospector made a "good living" (which was uncommon), they had difficulty getting food that was nourishing, satisfying and pleasing to the taste.

One exception were those Prospectors who lived and worked in close proximity to Lucy Higgins' Sundry Salon. Lucy was famous (or, should I say, infamous) for her "prepared meals." They were both satisfying and pleasing. On a good Saturday or Sunday, Prospectors would line up outside Lucy's door at Opening time (about 6:30 a.m.) for her sundry items - - particularly, the prepared meals.

But, as for the "nourishing" part - - that aspect was seriously in question.

Historians write about the biggest danger to Prospectors being the inclement weather, treacherous terrain, disease or hostility among old time Prospectors. They were wrong. The thing that did most old time Prospectors "in" - - certainly for those living in the vicinity of Lucy Higgins' Sundry Salon - - were her "prepared meals." Truth be known, those "meals" were their biggest cause of death of Prospectors in that area of California.

Some say that Lucy would use Tailings as a "filler" in her meals, which caused lead poisoning. Others say that she mixed arsenic in her food as a means of revenge for her 3 Prospector ex-husbands running out on her. Still others say that it was just that she was a bad cook.

So, why then, one might ask, didn't Lucy's customers just stop coming to the Sundry Salon?

The answer was quite simple and obvious, it was because of the other "treats" that Lucy and her luscious group of Salon "helpers" also provided the Prospectors.

As the old saying goes, oftentimes there is a bit of "bad" with something "good."

GHOST TOWNS and LOST MINES

A ghost town can best be explained as a town that has been abandoned, frequently due to the economic activity that maintained it failed or by cause of a natural or human provoked disaster such as war. This word is at times used in a deprecative sense to incorporate areas where the existing population is notably less than it once was in the past. It may perhaps be a partial ghost town such as Tonopah, Nevada or a neighborhood where people no longer live, like Love Canal. A tourist ghost town has important financial activity from tourism, such as Oatman, Arizona or abundant sites in Egypt, but cannot uphold itself apart from tourism.

A true ghost town is completely deserted and abandoned, such as Bodie, California, but often will see visitors. A ghost town might also be a place where very little or nothing is left above the soil surface, for example Babylon. Habitually a ghost town will still have noteworthy art and architecture, such as Vijavanagara in India or Changan in China. The majority of large countries and regions have places that can be considered as ghost towns.

Some ghost towns are tourist attractions, such as Kolmanskop and Elizabeth Bay, outside of Luderitz. This is in particular true of those that conserve out of the ordinary architecture.

In the case of lost mines, there are some that are very popular types of legends. The mine involved is generally of a high-value commodity such as gold, silver, or diamonds. Frequently there is a map (in the United States sometimes called a "waybill") allegedly showing the position of the mine. Some of the most common reasons that the mines were lost have to do with:

- The mine was discovered and worked by a recluse who did not want to make known the setting, and passed away before revealing the location.
- The mine was worked on by native peoples who did not want to reveal the location to other people.
- The mineral deposit was found in an isolated location, and when the person or persons wanted to return to the location they were no longer able to find it again.
- The person that discovered the area died of hunger, thirst, or exposure shortly after discovering the deposit, and the body of this person was found with rich ore examples in his possession.
- Hostile natives might have killed the discoverers or discoverer. Occasionally the natives covered up the entrance to the mine.

- In Spanish colonies in the New World, a lot of lost mines were allegedly worked under the direction of Jesuit priests prior to their abrupt expulsion in 1767.
- A number of lost mine legends have a historical basis; however there are some that do not have any. But the temptation of lost mine legends is demonstrated by the number of sites that exist on the subject, and the popularity of sites, magazines and publications such as Lost Treasure.

The ghost towns talked about in the West go all the way from totally abandoned villages to real reproductions and restorations – some of them have been completed with inhabitants dressed in mining clothing and Mother Hubbards. Obviously it is a lot easier to get to the restored towns and they offer something interesting and entertaining to look at. There is one that is called Calico and is located near Barstow California, and it was restored by the Knott family of Knott's Berry Farm. There is also another one that is in Virginia City located near Reno, Nevada. Some of them are worth checking out.

e-goldprospecting.com

PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE



Public Lands for The People, Inc. is launching a “Group” on Yahoo!. This group will improve communication and help get the word out. I have sent invitations to join directly to you, But I would appreciate it if you could put this info in your club newsletter. Your members are welcome to join.

I have contacted SPMA, OC 49ers, Valley Prospectors, PCSC, Taft, and New 49ers. If you belong to other clubs, please forward the invite to them. The group is located at this link:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Public_Lands_for_the_People/

You need to create a Yahoo!
ID and password in order to join the group
if you don't already have one at:
www.yahoo.com - <http://www.yahoo.com/>

PS: There is no cost to joining.
Cheers, Verne

The Story of the Lost Peg Leg Mine

This mine is perhaps one that has been searched for more than any other lost mine in the South area of California. The Lost Peg Mine is not actually a mine but rather a placer deposit and its attraction remains to be its most interesting point.

The actual name of this person Peg Leg was actually Thomas Smith and he was not a prospector or a miner. He was simply a man that travelled and roamed around the west at the beginning of the 1800's. He had no preference over white men and Indians and throughout his lifetime stayed with either one.

In 1829 Peg Leg decided to go on a journey with his friend Maurice Le Duke. In this trip both men crossed the Colorado River however it is not exactly clear what route they decided to take and it is something that gold seekers have been asking them selves for a long time now. The two men had already been out on their journey for around three days when they realized they noticed they did not have a sufficient amount of water on them.

The weather in the area was becoming hotter and they soon saw they were going to have to turn back or were going to end up dead. On top of this fact, they had to encounter a very bad sandstorm. The sandstorm threw them off of their trail and at this point they started to get desperate due to the need they had for water. Peg Leg is said to have climbed one of the buttes that were close by in his desperation for water.

Tired from his unsuccessful searching, he sat down to get some rest. At that point, he noticed that the butte was covered with black rocks that were the size of walnuts. He picked one of the rocks up and was impressed at how heavy they were and decided to put a few in his pocket. His idea was to get somebody to check them and see what they were once they got back into civilization. The two friends ended up spending the night in the butte and then the following day they found a spring.

Once they were all rested up and had refreshed themselves, they started to head back to Los Angeles again. As they were on their way, Peg Leg found out that the heavy black rocks he has put in his pocket were gold. However, he didn't go back to look for more gold right away. There are people that believe that he was simply too preoccupied with other things and there were not a great deal of places money could be spent during those times.

Los Angeles used to be a very small town of merely one thousand people. Then twenty years later when the rush to the Mother Lode occurred, Peg Leg realized what he had given up. He went back to the desert to find his abandoned fortune but he was not able to find it ever again. The landscape had changed and it was probable he simply could not remember the exact spot after twenty years.

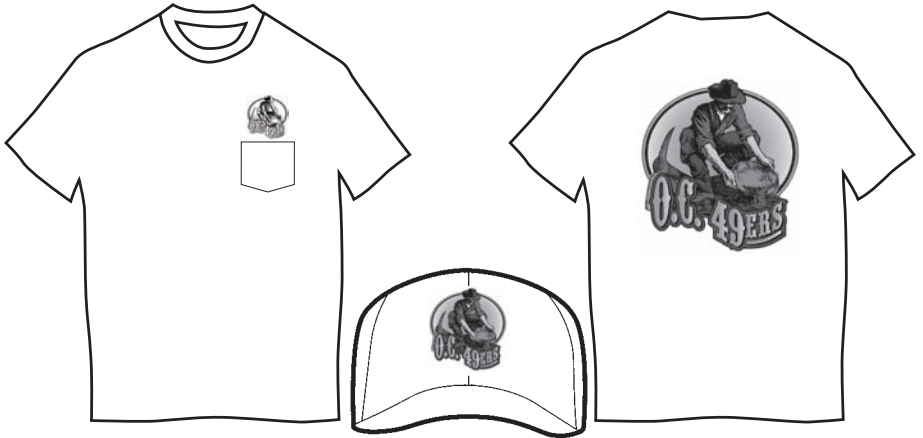
Peg Leg used Warner's Hot Springs as a base while he was on his search, and he centered in Borrego Valley. A few years afterwards, Peg Leg stopped the search and went up north to reside with the Indians. It is said that Peg Leg then became a gambler and bandit and always boasted about the fortune he had held in his hands. Peg Leg died at the age of sixty five in 1866. The legend of Peg Leg lives on though and it is not known how many men risked their lives in hopes of finding the lost treasure.

NEW FORTY-NINER'S STORE

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SCHEDULED OUTINGS 2009

DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

Meetings	Outing	Claim	Access	Rest Rooms
January 20th	24 & 25	HMC-1	Easy	Yes
February 17th	21 & 22	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
March 17th	28 & 29	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
April 21st	25 & 26	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
May 19th	23, 24 & 25	LDMA Duisenberg	Easy	Yes
June 16th	27 & 28	Condor	Easy	No
July 21st	25 & 26	Condor or TBA	Easy	No
August 18th	Sept. 5, 6 & 7	Tailings	Med	Yes
September 15th	26 & 27	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
October 20th	24 & 25	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
November 17th	Dec. 5-6	Goler	4-WD	No
December 15th	Holiday Dinner			

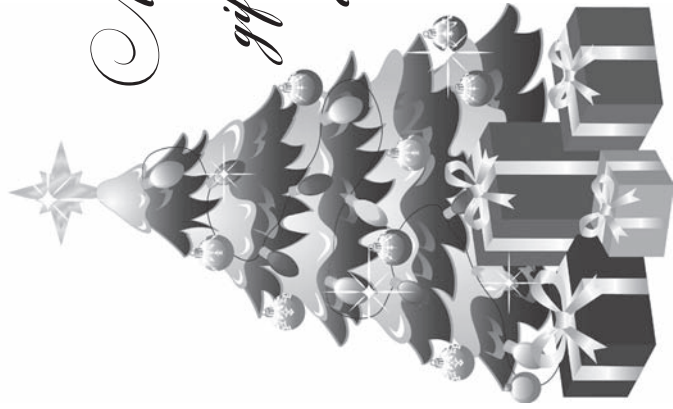


Access Easy	Good access for Passenger Car, 2 Wheel Drive, RV, and Trailers.
Access Medium	Can be accessed by 2 Wheel Drive. RV's, Trailers and 5th Wheels check with other members!!!
Access Tuff	Serious 4 Wheel Drive Trail/Dirt Road.
Restrooms	Are Chemical Toilets (Porta-Potties) that we rent for specific outings.

It is highly recommended that you attend the meetings and check with other members to discuss accessibility to these claims before going.



Orange County 49ers, Inc.
P.O. BOX 1491
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*May Peace be your
gift at Christmas
and your blessing
all year through!*