

THE ORANGE COUNTY FORTY-NINERS

GOLDEN AURA

August 2010

Volume: XXVIII Number: VIII



**DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING IS
August 17th, 2010**

**Our Next Outing is a Day Trip to Last Chance Canyon
August 28th, 2010**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

When: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

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

As you read this edition of the Aura, summer is coming to and end and it is about time to start thinking about desert prospecting. I know I am. As I hit a milestone birthday this summer, my wife bought me a metal detector of which I am excited to use. I have heard all the stories about collecting bullets, casings and barbed wire and I do look forward to helping clean the Mojave Desert of all that trash. When I was at our July Outing, I did a little detecting and a lot of useless digging, and realize there is much to learn about his type of prospecting for gold. I met a seasoned prospector who told me I would become knowledgeable after I put in 600 hours of searching, so only 594 hours to go until I have an understanding of what I am doing. That is encouraging!

June and July Outings: Both the June and July Outings were held at our Condor 2 claim located in the southern part of the Motherlode. Both Outings only had a hand full of Members in attendance, which is somewhat disappointing. This is one of our nicest claims in many respects, it is located in a beautiful area of the Sierras, there is gold to be found, the camping facilities are great with flush toilets and hot showers, the Stanislaus River flows through camp and there are many friendly people around. For those who like a city close by, Columbia is about 20 minutes away and a scenic drive for those who would rather dine-out than cook-in. On Friday and Saturday nights one can play in a "Texas Hold 'em" tournament, enjoy a campfire and shoot-the-bull, or just hang out in the clubhouse.

Like last year, the East Bay Chapter of the GPAA held their outing the same time as ours. They had 60 plus members in attendance and during the day they had numerous vendors displaying mining equipment and all the associated products. Saturday evening they had a steel guitar band perform after their dinner, a potluck. We enjoyed interacting and conversing with their group, as they are a very friendly bunch. It appears they will now have the Claim below ours, as they are in the process of acquiring it from the current owner.

During the June Outing the water flow on the Condor 2, or Rose Creek was very good, almost too fast for a sluice, and the Stanislaus was flowing too fast to cross it by foot. In July the flow had slowed down and sluicing became difficult on the Rose. Members panned, sluiced and high banked. Gold was found by all, but not in any great quantity. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to once again dredge this claim, which may bring more interest in attending future Outings at the Condor 2.

Dredging: Speaking of dredging, not sure how many of you saw this memo from Mark Stopher, the Environmental Program Manager for the CDF&G. It was located at several web sites relating to our prospecting activities. The memo states the dates regarding the study on the effects of dredging, and certain milestones that follows:

- Public review of the Draft SEIR (Supplemental Environmental Impact Report), 12-27-10.
- Public Hearings, January and February of 2011.
- Release of the final SEIR and Final Regulations, 09-01-11.
- File Notice of Determination, 09-15-11.

It appears it will take the government over three years to study something they have studied numerous times in the past. And to top it off, they are doing this study on the effects of dredging without any dredging taking place. Some would say it's amazing, but might add an adverb before the word amazing. The Federal Government never ceases to surprise us.

Speaker for August: To be announced on our Web page

A sad note, the OC49ers has lost another long time member, as Howard "Bud" Sexton passed away on July 22nd. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family during this difficult time. His obituary appears later in this edition.

August Outing: The Outing will be held on **Saturday the August 28th**. The Outing will be a day trip to Bickel's Camp and the surrounding area. We will meet at the Jawbone Ranger Station off highway 14.

JAWBONE STATION VISITORS CENTER

Highway 14 at Jawbone Canyon Road in Cantil, California,
approximately 20 miles north of Mojave.

lat 35.301518° lon -118.001794° (Google Maps)

Office Hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday thru Sunday

Office Phone Number: (760) 373-1146

There may be some who chose to camp and prospect at our claims after the Outing, but as this is not an official overnight outing, there will be no portipotties. For all the details, see the Wagon Master's article further back in the Aura.

Happy Prospecting

Steve

The TREASURE'S REPORT

July 2010

INCOME:

50-50 Income.....	\$ 20.00
Club Merchandise.....	82.50
Donations.....	0.00
Membership Renewal.....	55.00
New Membership.....	330.00
Raffle Income.....	287.00
Refreshments Income.....	6.00
Miscellaneous.....	30.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$ 810.50

EXPENSES:

Claims.....	\$ 0.00
Donations.....	0.00
Newsletters.....	0.00
Postage.....	0.00
Porta Potties.....	0.00
Raffle Prizes.....	177.00
Referrals.....	30.00
Refreshments.....	13.06
Rent.....	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$ 320.06

CHECKING ACCOUNT

7/1/2010	Beginning Balance	9,608.25	
7/31/2010	Ending Balance	10,034.08	
2	Outstanding Checks.....	110.00	
CHECK BOOK BALANCE.....		9,924.08	\$ 9,924.08

CERT DEP

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

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS **\$ 12,260.47**

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE **\$ 13,300.84**

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE **\$ 12,014.33** **\$(1,286.51)**

The WAGON MASTER'S REPORT



Well folks we had another fun outing this July. Rose Creek was flowing low and slow, this made it easy to bend over and just pick up the nuggets. When I said we I mean Steve Reid and I, because that is all that showed up. But that was okay, just meant more gold for Steve and me. The weather was nice not to hot and the water was cool. We played poker Friday and Saturday night. (losing both nights) this gave me enough time to enjoy my Cigars. For all you LDMA people Italian Bar has made a nice set up for Highbanking. They ran hard lines down to the river and buried them. This way you can hook up your pump at the river and set up your highbanker at the new settling pond. They were digging right in the side of the hill and pulling out some nice gold.

*****AUGUST OUTING*****

*****UPDATE THE NEW DATE WILL BE SATURDAY 28th*****

After heavy thought on what we could do this hot August weekend (28th) I threw around the idea to the board of having a field trip instead of digging in the desert driving over 500 miles one way to water. We decided to go to Last Chance Canyon, Bickel's Camp, Schmidt Tunnel and end the day at Randsburg. This will be a fun day of exploring and checking out some of our local gold mining history. We will talk more about the day at the next meeting. We will be meeting at the Jawbone BLM station parking lot at 8am. The Jawbone station is located at the corner of Hwy 14 and Jawbone Canyon Road. This is about 46 miles north of Lancaster. This will be a lot of fun, make sure to bring cold drinks, lunch, water, hat, sun screen, walking stick. We will be driving on dirt roads and soft sand so 4 wheel drive is recommended. This should not be any worse than going to any of our claims. If you do not have a 4 wheel drive I am sure we could fit you in some where. See you out there!

Just Moved to Arizona!

- Dear Diary:** Just moved to Arizona! Now this is a state that knows how to live. Beautiful sunny days and warm balmy evenings. It is beautiful. I've finally found my home. I love it here.
- June 14th:** Really heating up. Got to 100 today. Not a problem. Live in an air-conditioned home, drive an air-conditioned car. What a pleasure to see the sun everyday like this. I'm turning into a sun worshipper.
- June 30th:** Had the backyard landscaped with western plants today. Lots of cactus and rocks. What a breeze to maintain. No more mowing the lawn for me. Another scorcher today, but I love it here.
- July 10th:** The temperature hasn't been below 105 all week. How do people get used to this kind of heat? At least, it's kind of windy though. But getting used to the heat is taking longer than I expected.
- July 15th:** Fell asleep by the pool. (Got 3rd degree burns over 60% of my body). Missed 3 days of work. What a dumb thing to do. I learned my lesson though. Got to respect the ol' sun in a climate like this.
- July 20th:** I missed Fluffy (my cat) sneaking into the car when I left this morning. By the time I got to the hot car at noon, Fluffy had died and swollen up to the size of a shopping bag, then popped like a water balloon. The car now smells like Kibbles and Shits. I learned my lesson though. No more pets in this heat. Good ol' Mr. Sun strikes again.
- July 25th:** The wind sucks. It feels like a giant freaking blow dryer!! And, it's hot as hell. The home air-conditioner is on the Fritz and the AC repairman charged \$200 just to drive by and tell me he needed to order parts.
- July 30th:** Been sleeping outside on the patio for 3 nights now, \$225,000 house and I can't even go inside. Fluffy is the lucky one. Why did I ever come here?

- Aug. 4th:** It's 115 degrees. Finally got the air-conditioner fixed today. It cost \$1200 and gets the temperature down to 85. I hate this stupid state.
- Aug. 8th:** If another wise ass cracks, 'Hot enough for you today?' I'm going to Strangle him. Damn heat. By the time I get to work, the radiator is boiling over, my clothes are soaking wet, and I smell like baked cat!!
- Aug. 9th:** Tried to run some errands after work.? Wore shorts, and when I sat on the seats in the car, I thought my ass was on fire. My skin melted to the seat. I lost 2 layers of flesh and all the hair on the back of my legs and ass... Now my car smells like burnt hair, fried ass, and baked cat.
- Aug. 10th:** The weather report might as well be a damn recording. Hot and sunny. Hot and sunny. Hot and sunny. It's been too hot to do anything for 2 damn months and the weatherman says it might really warm up next week. Doesn't it ever rain in this damn state? Water rationing will be next, so my \$2700 worth of cactus will just dry up and blow away. Even the cactus can't live in this damn heat.
- Aug. 14th:** Welcome to HELL! Temperature got to 122 today. Cactus are dead. Forgot to crack the window and blew the damn windshield out of the car. The installer came to fix it and guess what he asked me? "Hot enough for you today?" My sister had to spend \$1,500 to bail me out of jail. Freaking Arizona. What kind of a sick demented idiot would want to live here??

Will write later to let you know how the trial goes.



Walter Bickel

“Lay me down in the soft sand, for I’ll be there evermore.”

Those words are part of a song written by Walter Bickel, who lived in the Mojave Desert for over 50 years. He was a prospector who made his home in Last Chance Canyon, located in California’s El Paso Mountain range, not far south of the community of Ridgecrest.

The canyon is a rough sandy area bounded by walls composed of both sedimentary and volcanic rock. Summertime temperatures can top 100 degrees. Winters can fall to freezing. Yet, the area’s ruggedness is matched by its beauty. At mid-morning, sunlight bathes the rocks in a warm, orange glow. On clear nights, you can see the starlit wash of the Milky Way.

Bickel, a Kansas native, was born in 1905. While he was a youngster, it became apparent that he was mechanically inclined. He built a racecar from the parts of several junked vehicles. He built a rudimentary ducted-fan aircraft engine. Although the engine apparently never found its way into an airplane, it did produce enough thrust to blow out the wall in his father’s barn!

Perhaps intrigued by the exciting opportunities out West, Bickel moved to California in 1923, while he was still a teenager, initially finding employment with a pipe company. Over the next several years, he worked in demolitions, becoming an explosives expert in the process.

He visited Last Chance Canyon for the first time in 1927, while en route to Nevada. He apparently thought the area was worth a second look because he returned in 1933 at the invitation of a Mojave man who had a mine in Last Chance Canyon. Figuring that there was plenty of gold to be had, Bickel filed his own claim in 1934 and built a small cabin. The cozy little cabin stands to this day, a monument to the man and the time.



Bickel Camp Overview

Although he dreamed of desert gold, Bickel had to find a way to feed his wife and children. In 1934, with the country in the middle of the Great Depression, Bickel owned a machine shop in Los Angeles, but this business, like many others, succumbed to

the country’s economic woes. Bickel then worked a series of temporary jobs and commuted to Last Chance Canyon on weekends. He managed to make his living in this fashion, until he joined the Army in 1942.

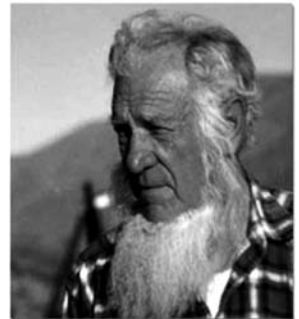
Walt Bickel was never sent into combat, but he received a medal for inventing a tool that enabled soldiers to rapidly change hot machine gun barrels during combat. Discharged due to a back injury, Bickel returned to Last Chance Canyon in 1946.

Now, living in the canyon full time, Bickel spent each day working his mine until dark. He would then have dinner, which usually included local herbs that he had picked himself. During the evening, Bickel would sit by the fire and play his harmonica. He also passed the time by looking at the stars through his telescope.

Bickel built a life in Last Chance Canyon without many of the creature comforts we take for granted today. He did not have an air-conditioned sport utility vehicle. He lived roughly 30 miles from the nearest grocery store. When a piece of equipment broke down, Bickel could not easily drive into town to buy the part he needed. He never discarded broken equipment. Broken, worn-out machinery provided Bickel with a huge inventory of spare parts. His work shed contained components from dozens of small engines, which powered his dry wash sifting machines. In addition, many a stranded motorist benefited from Bickel's stock of spare parts. Bickel's resourcefulness also paid off when it came to life's necessities. He collected water from the infrequent rains and stored it in wine jugs for later use. A water tank placed on a hilltop provided him with gravity-fed, solar-heated water for his shower stall.

Besides practical assistance, Bickel treated visitors to his home-cooked meals and stories of desert lore. He taught many city people how to pan for gold, and in so doing, provided a whole generation with a glimpse of a bygone era.

It's been said that one man's junk is another man's treasure. Walt Bickel's work shed, which is full of small engine parts and tools, is more than a treasure. They are artifacts which tell the story of one man's ingenuity and self-reliance.



Walt Bickel

Bickel's camp is accessible from either Harts Road, from Route 14, or from the Mesquite Canyon Road, off Garlock road. Trail EP 15/26 leads to the site. A four-wheel drive vehicle with high ground clearance is recommended. Much of the off-highway route is sandy, and there are some steep, rocky inclines. In addition, there are rattlesnakes in the area, so visitors should always watch where they step. Other hazards include numerous open mine shafts and flash floods. It is an area that you should visit with caution.

by Scott Schwartz

Burro Schmidt's Tunnel

William “Burro” Schmidt's Obsession

All William “Burro” Schmidt would ever say about his tunnel, according to Seger and Ayers, was that it was a “short-cut.” He never really explained why he spent some 33 years of his life digging, single handedly, through a mountain to reach an isolated ledge, over 4000 feet above sea level. “Miners don’t talk much,” said Ayers.

Schmidt used mostly hand tools and explosives in his excavation. He removed rubble with a wheelbarrow. Sometimes, he carried it out on his back. “Later in life, his abdominal muscles were so strong, that they forced him to bend permanently. It caused him a lot of pain,” said Ayers. Eventually, Schmidt installed rails for an ore car.

Schmidt, hoping to improve his health, had come to the California desert from Rhode Island, where six of his siblings had died from tuberculosis. He began construction of the tunnel in 1902, near the site where he had staked a mining claim. Ostensibly, he meant to use the tunnel as a short cut through Copper Mountain for carrying his ore to a smelter on the other side. That seems improbable, however because the tunnel emerged on the high ledge, in the middle of nowhere.

During the years he worked on his tunnel, Schmidt supported himself, not by mining, but by hiring himself out as a ranch hand every summer. In the fall, he would take his two burros (the source of his nickname), Jack and Jenny, and head back up to Copper Mountain resume his compulsive excavation of his tunnel.

According to a story, written by Evelyn Tonie Seger herself for the Time/Life book *Odd And Eccentric People*, Schmidt, in the course of digging the tunnel, actually discovered “potentially rich veins of gold, silver, copper, and iron.” Additionally, Ayers said, there was a rumor about a rich vein of gold in the mountain. However, “...the miner in [Schmidt] had been upstaged by the tunneler.” Driven to complete his monumental one-man project, Schmidt simply disdained precious metals. Even after he had finished his tunnel, he never transported an ounce of ore through it.



Burro Schmidt's old work shop - currently off limits to visitors.

Later in his life, Schmidt took on a partner, a man named Mike Lee, to assist in taking visitors on tours of the tunnel. After Schmidt died in 1954, Lee continued to give tours of the tunnel until he, too, died, in 1963.

Evelyn Tonie Seger's Obsession

After Lee's death, Evelyn Tonie Seger and her husband bought the Schmidt and Lee cabins, not far from the tunnel entrance. Like Schmidt, the couple had been drawn to the California desert by the promise of better health, primarily for Seger's ailing husband.

With few conveniences at the cabins, the Segers had to haul water by truck up the mountainside to their new home. One day, in 1964, Seger found her husband stricken, sprawled on the ground beside the truck. As he lay dying, he told her that his last wish was that she locate water for their home. Now with an obsession of her own, Tonie stayed on at the site until she did, in fact, find water. I asked her how did a New England native ever find water in the Mojave Desert? "I witched it!" she said. She had used a divining rod. So preoccupied was she about finding water that, she said, she didn't even know about the tunnel until some visitors asked her about it.

Becoming a legend in her own right, Evelyn Tonie Seger, feisty and fiercely independent with no time for nonsense, grew as tough as the desert. Good thing, too. Finding water, as it turned out, wasn't her only problem.

In the late 1970's, another woman who had a nearby claim tried to run Seger out of the area—apparently a modern attempt at claim jumping. Several times during that period, the woman and/or members of her family allegedly took pot shots at Seger. Other times, Seger awoke in the middle of the night to find her buildings on fire. The feud reached its climax when the other woman



Tunnel entrance.

turned up at Seger's cabin one day with a loaded pistol. Seger knocked the weapon from the woman's hand. She told the woman that if she ever came back with a gun, she'd "better be prepared to use it!" That confrontation led to an uneasy truce that lasted until the other woman died, bringing a permanent end to the dispute.

Evelyn Tonie Seger lived at the Copper Mountain site, in one of the larger cabins, until her death, on May 30, 2003, at the age of 95. Relatives and friends gathered at a memorial to recall the temper and wit that defined her personality and the stories that spoke to her love for the desert, especially the sunrises.

You will find that the view from the ledge at the end of the tunnel is breathtaking. On a clear day, in fact, you can see the old mining town of Randsburg nestled at the top of a mountain, just off Highway 395, approximately 20 miles in the distance.

by Scott Schwartz

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

July 20th, 2010

Our President, Steve Reid called the meeting to order at 7:40pm, followed by the flag salute. Our visitors at the meeting were Rose Collins, Phil Martin, and Nugget the dog. Kathi gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved as written.

Our Wagon Master, Bryan DeGhetto, reminded us of the upcoming outing at Condor 2. We will not be able to dredge, but we can drywash, sluice, and just have fun prospecting.

Our guest speaking was Billy Ray Younkens from Randsburg. Billy has invented a new drywasher, "The Gauntlet". He engineered and built it himself in several different sizes. The Gauntlet carries a 10 year warranty, with the exception of the wobbler, which has a 1 year warranty. Billy is standing behind his product, and thinks it is the best on the market. It is also 100% American made.

The winners of our raffle were as follows: Nancy Grogan - Gold Nugget, Chris Kelly - Silver Round, Kevin Carr - Silver Round, Bryan DeGhetto - Silver Round, Jack Montoya - Silver Round, Mike Hulka - 2 Silver Rounds, Brent Cross - Silver Round, and Shirley Rowe-Silver Round.

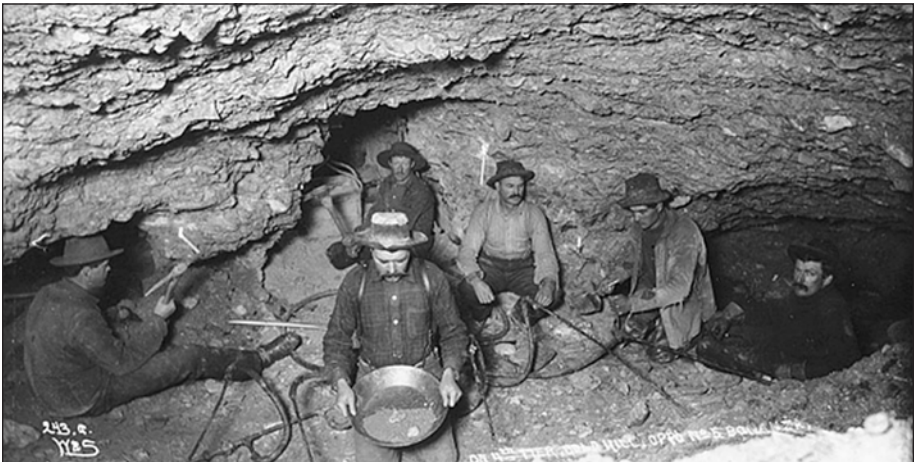
The 50/50 was won by Carolyn Kelly.

The Gold Nugget Door Prize won by Steve Reid.

Meeting was adjourned.

Secretary,

Sandy Hunt



Jack Stewart's Lost Lode

THE TALE

The 1870's were "silver years" in the mining history of the American West. After the fabulous Comstock silver strike in western Nevada, silver replaced gold in the hearts of the miners and prospectors of the West. 1873 was a big year at the Comstock mines as massive new silver lodes were discovered in the lower workings. These fabulous silver discoveries sent out a ripple of excitement to all parts of the West as prospectors poured over the mountains in search of the white metal. Soon after the Comstock windfall, prospectors discovered incredibly rich silver deposits in the Panamint Range of eastern California. Some of the Panamint ore assayed out at \$3000 worth of silver per ton of ore!

Silver was king in Colorado during the 1870's. It was during those years that the so-called "carbonate craze" swept the state. Prospectors scouted the mountains in search of silver-bearing ore bodies emplaced in carbonate rocks such as limestone. Prospectors looked for limestones that were closely associated with igneous rocks. And they found them! It turned out that Colorado was particularly well-endowed with silver deposits. In 1878, one of the greatest silver camps of all was born with the discovery of a 10-foot thick, tabular bed of silver-bearing lead carbonate. Leadville instantly leaped to prominence. In the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado, a similar ore body near Rico was worked during the 1870's.

The white metal was also king in Arizona during the 1870's. The great silver district of the Trigo Mountains got its start with the discovery of the rich Black Rock and Pacific lodes in 1877.

Then, around the turn of the century, gold again replaced silver in importance as numerous rich strikes were made all over the West. 1891 was the year of the great Cripple Creek gold rush. Situated at an elevation of 10,000 feet, the gold-choked throat of the buried "Cripple Creek volcano" has produced over \$430 million in gold! Cripple Creek was the last of Colorado's great gold camps. In 1895, the fabulous lode deposits of Randsburg were discovered in the Mohave Desert of southern California. The Randsburg mines produced nearly a million ounces of gold during their lifetime. Southern California was the scene of another rich gold strike during the 1890's. The discovery took place in the Panamint Mountains, about 7 miles south of the abandoned silver camp of Panamint City. The mining camp that sprang up along the western flank of the Panamints was named after the famous Australian gold camp known as Ballarat.

In 1897, it was Alaska's turn. The great Alaskan gold rush took prospectors to the Klondike and then to Nome the following year. The great placer deposits of Alaska have produced over 20 million ounces of gold to date. In the early 1900's, the focus shifted back to the American Southwest. In 1902, the fabulous ore bodies at Goldfield, Nevada were discovered. The mines at Goldfield eventually produced over 4 million ounces of the yellow metal. The Goldfield strike sent a pulse of excitement throughout the desert Southwest. Prospectors combed the wilderness, looking for gold and silver ores similar to those at Tonopah and Goldfield. In 1904, the famous Death Valley prospector "Shorty" Harris discovered the rich Bullfrog lode, near the Nevada/California border. Two years later, prospectors returned to the Panamints and located the gold deposits at Skidoo. The Panamints had a way of luring back prospectors again and again. It had happened back in 1873, and then in the 1890's, and then again in 1906.

One of the many prospectors drawn to the Panamint Range during the 1890's was a veteran of the Death Valley country named Jack Stewart. In 1897, Stewart found himself on the Death Valley side of the Panamints, not far from Stovepipe Wells. During a rare Death Valley downpour, Stewart was forced to take cover along the northeastern flank of the range. In one of the many small canyons that cut the range, Stewart discovered a freshly-exposed deposit of gold-bearing quartz float! He gathered up some samples, waited out the storm, and continued on his way to Stovepipe Wells. Eventually, Stewart returned to the Panamints to search for the source of the rich float. But the landscape had somehow changed! Perhaps another storm had altered the canyon floor, but in any case, Stewart was unable to locate the deposit. He never did.

MINING HISTORY

The Panamint Range is the great repository of precious metals in Inyo County, California. The various mining districts of the Panamints collectively produced some 300,000 ounces of gold during their lifetimes. The range is also home to some amazingly rich silver veins. Some of the silver ore found in Marvel Canyon assayed out at an incredible \$3000 per ton!

Silver was the magnet that initially drew prospectors to the Panamints. They came in search of the fabulous silver lode known as the Lost Gunsight Mine. In 1860, a prospector named Alvord discovered silver in the Panamints while searching for the Gunsight Mine. Indeed, silver was the metal that started things in the Panamints. In 1873, prospectors discovered a bonanza of silver at the head of Surprise Canyon. The following year, a wave of prospectors poured into the canyon. Rich strikes were made on the slopes of Marvel Canyon, a feeder of Surprise Canyon. A tough mining camp known as Panamint City sprang up near the mines. It had a woeful reputation, but of course its days were numbered. By 1877, the rich silver deposits were gone and the mining camp withered away.

Gold was discovered late in the Panamints. It wasn't until the 1890's that the rich Ballarat deposits were located along the western flank of the Panamints. Then in 1905, the renowned Death Valley prospectors "Shorty" Harris and Pete Agureberry discovered gold-bearing quartz veins in the heart of the range, near present-day Harrisburg. The following year, two prospectors on their way to the Harrisburg diggings stumbled on one of the richest gold deposits in all of southern California. The mines at Skidoo poured out nearly \$3 million in gold and silver during their 14 years of operation.

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. The largest plutons include the granite of Manly Peak (outcrop area: approximately 20 square miles), the pluton near the site of Panamint (located near the center of the range), and the granite pluton near Skidoo and Harrisburg (located just south of Tucki Mountain). Tertiary volcanic rocks occur on the southernmost spur of the Panamint Range, south of Manly Peak. This exposure is part of a large volcanic field (outcrop area: approximately 100 square miles) that stretches from the Panamint Valley (just south of Manly Peak) eastward to Death Valley. A much smaller exposure of Tertiary volcanics occurs on the northeastern flank of the range, just north of Trail Canyon Road. As previously mentioned, the Panamints are mostly composed of Precambrian to Cambrian metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. For the most part, the western flank of the range is made up of ancient Precambrian metamorphic and sedimentary basement rock while the eastern flank is mostly composed of slightly younger Precambrian to Cambrian marine sediments. Two large uplifted wedges of younger Ordovician, Silurian, and Devonian sedimentary rocks are exposed in the northern and northeastern parts of the range. The largest exposure of these early Paleozoic sediments occurs on the northeastern flank of Tucki Mountain.

PROSPECTING POTENTIAL

The Panamint Range is home to a number of mineralized zones which have produced a stream of precious metals. Consequently, the range does offer some potential for future strikes. The eastern flank of the range is predominantly composed of ancient Precambrian to Cambrian marine sediments while the western flank is made up of Precambrian metamorphic and sedimentary basement rock. A large exposure of younger Paleozoic sedimentary rocks occurs on the northeastern flank of Tucki Mountain. This wedge of

Paleozoic sediments ranges in age from Ordovician to Devonian. If indeed Stewart's Lost Lode is located somewhere on the Death Valley side of the Panamints, then it is probably hosted in the early Paleozoic sediments that dominate this part of the range. Prospectors may therefore want to concentrate on the many canyons and ravines that slice the northeastern and eastern flanks of the range. The search for gold-bearing quartz float would certainly be facilitated by the use of metal-detectors.

Howard Sexton



Sexton, Howard "Bud" A., 80, of Garden Grove, passed away on July 22. A product of Depression Era Kansas farmers, he was a resident of Orange County for 54 years. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Margaret; 5 children, Harlin, Ethel, James, Daniel, and Brenda; as well as 11 grandchildren, Brenda, Howard, Samantha, Kevin, Brian, Janet, Linda, Danielle, Cassie, Breanna, and Michael. He is also survived by 6 great grandchildren, Jeffery, Joshua, Jacob, Makenna, Kylie, and Hunter. Services were held at Westminster Memorial Park on Wednesday, July 28.

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBER

Mike & Dianna Brennan
661-587-9512
14108 Barnsdale Ave.
Bakerfield, CA 93314
mdbrennan@sbcglobal.net

NEW MEMBER

Gary Coats
661-393-0917
7608 hooper Ave.
Bakerfield, CA 93308
kccad@juno.com

NEW MEMBER

Fredrick D. Hoff
805-323-5404
1129 Badger Cir.
Ventura, CA 93003

FOR SALE

36" Jobe Sluice Box - NEW Never Used.
Jon Kishi 310-473-2444 **\$100.00**

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Arizona Prospector Easy cleanup removable tray Adjustable classifier feed rate Aluminum/Steel construction Self contained, no parts to lose Light weight, easy transport and setup Durable sealed vibrator system Efficient low RPM blower speed Includes 10' quick disconnect hose. ECHO ES-210 Shred and Vac motor, installed on a twist-lock style bucket. **LIGHTLY USED**
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SCHEDULED OUTINGS 2010

DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

Meetings	Outing	Claim	Access	Rest Rooms
January 19th	30 & 31	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
February 16th	27 & 28	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
March 16th	27 & 28	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
April 20th	24 & 25	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
May 18th	29, 30 & 31	Duiesenberg	Easy	Yes
June 15th	25 & 26	Rose Creek	Easy	No
July 20th	30 & 31	Rose Creek	Easy	No
August 17th	28	Last Chance Canyon	Easy	No
September 21st	24 & 25	Kern River	Easy	No
October 19th	30 & 31	Duiesenberg	Easy	Yes
November 16th	Dec. 4	Day Outing, Goler Gulch	4-WD	No
December 21st	Holiday Party	Club House	Easy	Yes



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



Orange County 49ers, Inc.

P.O. Box 1491

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