

THE ORANGE COUNTY FORTY-NINERS

GOLDEN AURA

April 2011

Volume: XXIX Number: IV



<<First>> <<Last>>

DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING IS
April 19th, 2011

THIS MONTHS OUTING IS AT
Puppy Feet • April 30-May 1, 2011

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

April

The Club had our day Outing at Bluff Park in Long Beach on Sunday March 13th. There were eighteen Members swinging their detectors and looking for those varied treasures. Everyone found coins; Sandy Hunt found an unused condom, I found my first half dollar, but do believe Perry had the best find of the day. He found a small silver cardboard jewelry box about a foot deep in the sand. Perry opened the box, and inside was a sterling (.925) ring, with some stones. Why was the ring still in the box and what was it doing buried a foot deep in the sand? One could guess the poor boy was planning to surprise his "friend" and but it appears that it never happened. One might wonder why.....did he get cold feet, did he lose the box in a drunken stupor, or did she just say "no"? Ahh,..... the mysteries of life.

Day Outing: We held our second Day Outing April 3rd at Huntington State Beach. There were only 8 Members present, which was a little disappointing. Was the attendance low because of the forecast earlier in the week for light showers on Saturday, or was it the cost of parking being \$15. Let me know if it was the later, as this will help us coordinate future events and their locations. It was a nice day at the beach with the sun appearing mid-morning. Again, everyone found coins and the normal junk, but there we no reports of anything of great value. Hope to see more of you at our next Day Outing.

May Day Outing: We have scheduled a Day Outing for Sunday, May 15th at Huntington Beach, the City Beach. We will meet just South of the pier at 8:00 AM. Bring your quarters as it is metered parking, or so I am told.

Annual May Outing: Our big annual Outing is May 27th-29th. Remember, we will be camping/occupying just off RM 26 (the road to LDMA) about 8/10th of a mile East of Highway 395. If possible, send in your raffle tickets to our Post Office Box. The Club will be utilizing a cargo trailer for the Potluck so do bring your chairs and table if you choose to use them. We will be having a campfire Friday night and Saturday night, so bring some firewood. The Club sponsored coin

hunt is Sunday morning, so bring your detectors.

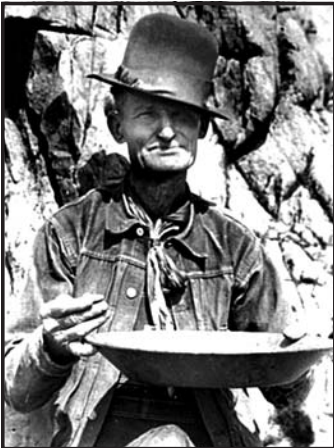
March Outing: The Outing was held at our Puppy Feet claim. There was no snow this month but the ground is still very damp and will probably be so for some time. It is also believed by many of the old wise prospectors that it will take multiple months for the ground to dry out near the caliche or bedrock layers. Gold was found but not in any great quantities. Several Members chose to metal detect, but other than the standard trash, I did not hear of any nuggets being found. It was extremely windy and one needed to wear several layers of clothing to keep warm. The good news is that the desert is starting to warm up and the flowers should be in full bloom for our next Outing.

April Outing: Our next Outing is scheduled for Puppy Feet on April 30th and May 1st. The Outing was moved back a week because the “last full weekend” in April is Easter this year.

Silver Rounds: If you are interested in selling your silver rounds, the Club is interested in buying them at 80% of spot. Please contact a Board Member.

Speaker for April: Our speaker will be Bob Hirsch. Bob will talk to us about privy digging. Based on the subject matter he could be full of it, or it could be very fascinating and entertaining. Plan to attend the meeting and make up you own mind.

Speaker for May: Our speaker will be Walt Lombardo of Nevada Mineral & Book Company. He will attempt to educate us on the subject of meteorites.



Hope to see you April 30th in the desert at our Puppy Feet claim.

Happy Prospecting,

Steve

The TREASURE'S REPORT

MARCH 2011

INCOME:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 50-50 Income..... | \$ 18.00 |
| Club Merchandise..... | 43.00 |
| May Outing | 805.00 |
| Membership Renewal..... | 275.00 |
| New Membership..... | 330.00 |
| Raffle Income..... | 290.00 |
| Refreshments Income..... | 10.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME..... | \$ 1,771.00 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| May Outing | \$ 0.00 |
| Newsletters | 450.20 |
| Porta Potties | 105.73 |
| Postage..... | 230.70 |
| Raffle Prizes..... | 342.40 |
| Referrals..... | 0.00 |
| Refreshments..... | 37.28 |
| Rent | 125.00 |
| Supplies | 67.80 |
| Misc. | 70.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 2,153.18 |

CHECKING ACCOUNT

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2/01/2011, Beginning Balance..... | 12,704.26 | |
| 2/31/2011, Ending Balance..... | 13,061.45 | |
| 3 Outstanding Checks | 125.00 | |
| CHECK BOOK BALANCE..... | 12,936.45 | \$ 12,936.45 |

CERT DEP

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 00/00 CD Balance | 2,344.23 | \$ 2,344.23 |
| CD Statements are sent Quarterly | | |

TOTAL CLUB ASSETS **\$ 15,280.68**

TOTAL INCOME YEAR TO DATE **\$7,319.00**

TOTAL EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE **\$4,291.52** **\$ 3,027.48**

GENERAL MEETING

March 15, 2011

Our President, Steve Reid called the meeting to order at 7:40pm, followed by the flag salute. We had two visitors, Mark Sabo and Maxeo Kadona. Kathi gave the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as written.

Bryan DeGhetto, our wagon master talked about our outing at the beach and our upcoming May outing.

Jadie presented our membership with her company Greenbacks for Gold.com. She will be coming to our May meeting, May 17th, and our membership can bring their gold, silver and platinum items in to be sold.

Our speaker for the evening could not make it, so Bryan brought a Gold Fever DVD for all to enjoy. He also showed pictures of the snow in the desert at our February outing at Puppy Feet.

Winners of our drawing were as follows: Sandy Hunt-Gold Nugget, Chuck Brand, Steve Reid, Walter Sharp, BA Skipper, Stan Gilman, and Bryan DeGhetto all won Silver Rounds. Ralph Kolbush was the winner of the 50/50 drawing. Chris Kelly won the Gold Nugget Door Prize.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Secretary,

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBER

Beebe Johnnie
351 Green Acres Ln.
Yakima, WA 98901
johnnyakima@aol.com

NEW MEMBER

Webb Gary & Kari
650 N. Rose Dr. #205
Placentia, CA 92870

NEW MEMBER

McBee Marshall & Chantell
118 Quail Ln
Wofford Hgts., CA 93258

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The WAGON MASTER'S REPORT



WHOOOA DOGGIE IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Howdy fellow Orange County 49er's,
Well it's that time of year again, Time to start thinking and planning for the Orange County 49er's annual May Extravaganza outing Gold Digging Pot Luck eatin thing we do every year.

DATE: May 27-29

Where: Our Camp will be 8/10 of a mile from Hwy395 on LDMA's Duisenburg's Road. There will be a 35 foot white trailer and outhouses. You can Camp anywhere around there.

GOLD: Puppy Feet, Broken Shovel and Cash1 or Perry's pockets.

FRIDAY: There is no Friday Night Chili Cook-off!!!! We will have a Campfire and smoke Cigars and listen to fabricated stories. (Is it better to not make a statement about no chili cook-off?)

SATURDAY: Saturday Night will be our outstanding **POT LUCK DINNER**. Burgers and Dogs on the grill at **6:00**

SUNDAY: we will be having a metal detecting contest with CASH. This will be organized by Kathi and Perry

THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE: meat, buns, condiments, paper plates, napkins and utensils. Please have all the good Vittles in the trailer by **5:30**. Eatin should start around **6:00** or as soon as the meat is done. We are looking for your Pot Luck items to be able to serve 8 to 10 Hungry Miners. Personally, I like macaroni salad, potato salad, deviled eggs and that Jell-O stuff with whipped cream and fruit! We will be holding the Grand Ole Nugget drawing immediately following dinner. Good Luck! Bring some Fire Wood and we can sit around the fire and listen to Steve sing us some Cowboy songs. Very important please pack out what you bring in, just like HMC there is no trash service. We need to make sure we leave the place cleaner then we found it.

See y'all out there.

Bryan,

Wagon Master

The Haunted Oatman Hotel

In the historic town of Oatman, Arizona sits the haunted Oatman Hotel. Oatman was first established as a tent city in the early 1900s and the historic hotel, called the Drulin Hotel, was built in 1902. The eight room hotel did a brisk business to area miners, especially after two miners struck a rich vein that would end up being a 10 million dollar gold find in 1915. Prior to that time the town had been little more than a mining camp. The rich gold discovery brought hundreds of new settlers and within one year's time, Oatman had grown to more than 3,500 residents.



In just a few short years, Oatman suffered three major fires that almost destroyed the town. However, the town was rebuilt, and the old hotel was repaired in 1920, continuing to host its many guests.

However, both the population and the mining boom were short-lived. The largest mining company, United Eastern Mines, shut down its operations in 1924 and the town almost died. But with the advent of Route 66, the old town and the hotel hung on, catering to the many travelers along the new highway.



On March 29, 1939 Clark Gable and Carole Lombard spent their wedding night at the old hotel after having been married in Kingman, Arizona. Remembering this memorable night, the couple often returned to the hotel for the peace and solitude it afforded them. Clark was known to spend many a night playing poker with some of the miners. Sadly, Carole Lombard was killed in a plane crash in January 1942. Though devastated, Clark continued with his life and his career and later married again.

Over the years, the old hotel carried a number of names but was changed to the Oatman Hotel in the 1960s. When Route 66 was replaced with the interstate, Oatman again suffered a devastating blow and dwindled to just a few gift shops and restaurants. Today only about 100 people live in Oatman year-round.

The Oatman Hotel is one of the biggest attractions of the small village as the word of its mischievous ghosts has spread far and wide. The first

and foremost ghosts are those of Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, who evidently had so many fine memories of the old hotel that they simply refuse to leave. Continuing to celebrate, guests and staff have often heard the pair whispering and laughing from the room when it is empty. According to one report, when a professional photographer took a picture of the empty room, the ghostly figure of a man appeared on the developed print.

Evidently Clark and Carole are not alone, as there are other spirits that reportedly haunt the old hotel. The second floor houses a Theater Room Museum where distinct outlines of sleeping bodies have been found in the dust on the beds there. Upon closer inspection, none of the surrounding areas appear to be disturbed. Staff suspects that the sleeping spirit is that of a former chambermaid who has often been spotted in the room.

Another guest room is also said to be haunted by an Irish miner who once lived there. Distraught because his family died when on their way to America, he had a habit of heavy drinking. One night he got really carried away with the drinking passed out behind the hotel. He never woke up. It is said that he has haunted his old room in the hotel ever since. The staff refers to this spirit as "Oatie," who is often heard playing his bagpipe around the hotel. Other common pranks include opening the window in his former room and pulling the covers off of the bed. There have also been reports of the room being very cold – in the midst of a hot desert day.



Downstairs in the saloon, it appears that there are several playful spirits at work here, who have been said to lift money off the bar and raise glasses into the air. Other strange phenomena include lights turning on and off seemingly by themselves, the sounds of eerie voices, toilets that flush in empty bathrooms and footprints that appear from nowhere on recently cleaned floors.

Lucky for the Oatman Hotel it seems as if their bevy of unusual guests are the playful friendly type and don't make a habit of scaring away their guests.

The Oatman Hotel is listed on the National Historical Building Registry and is the only two-story adobe building in Mohave County. The hotel is filled with memorabilia of the past and the Gable/Lombard Room has been refurbished to the period that they were there.

Today, the Oatman Hotel no longer provides accommodations for guests but still serves as a museum.

Deadly Duels in Nevada City

Goldrush duels were not always the meeting of good and bad in the street at high noon. In fact, many of them turned out to be fairly ridiculous affairs.

Take the duel between two fellows, named Tompkins and Curley, that erupted on the streets of Nevada City on July 12, 1861.

An argument - it always starts with an argument, usually fueled by an abundance of whiskey - reached the point where honor had been offended and a duel was called for. The man challenged, as was the tradition, had a choice of weapons. His choice: water hoses.

Each man had a 25-foot hose and nozzle connected to a fire hydrant on a Nevada City street. The range of the "weapons" was 150 feet. The hydrants were opened and the duel began. A crowd of onlookers had gathered and they were the first victims of the duel, getting soaked and splashed with mud churned up from the street by the streams of water. A great deal of fun was being had by all when one of the hoses burst, ending the duel.

While history does not record the aftermath of this, perhaps the world's first hydraulic duel, it can be presumed that more whiskey was involved.

A bit earlier in Nevada City's history, a duel that involved real bullets claimed a victim. It was fall of 1853 and an election had just ended. Elections caused as much strife as whiskey and this one was no exception. Billy Mason was the Democratic candidate for the state Assembly. The rest of his party's ticket won election but Mason did not. He immediately blamed one H.C. Gardiner, who had worked to defeat Mason at the polls. Mason got madder and madder at Gardiner until he confronted the man with a pistol in a Nevada City hotel bar. He was accompanied by the editor of the Young America newspaper, who could tell a story when it happened to him.

Showing that he was armed only with a pen knife, Gardiner was hit in the face by Mason. Several times.

At about nine the next morning Gardiner borrowed a Navy revolver from the express office and set out to revenge his honor.

Mason and the newspaper editor were up early, too, and headed for the newspaper office, which stood where the National Hotel is today.

They walked through and out the back door, circling around and down the alley back toward Broad Street.

Gardiner had followed them, but finding the newspaper office empty, he headed back out the front door, to be greeted by bullets from the alley. He took a bullet in the calf of his leg and soon gave Mason a similar wound.

When the pistols were empty the crowd that had shown up to see the gunfight fell on the two men and subdued them. The final toll showed one dead bystander. Apparently a pig had tried to cross the street between the two duelists and a bullet from Mason's gun had turned him to breakfast bacon.

In 1866 as fall was in full swing two Frenchmen, Souchet and Picard were their names, came to an impasse of honor at North Bloomfield.

Their seconds conspired to give them Colt pistols with which to duel, having caps and balls, but no powder. The misfires did nothing to calm the situation. The men fired - so to speak - their seconds, loaded their own pistols, and advanced on one another, firing. No one was hit. Finally Souchet, using his empty pistol as a club, badly beat Picard. the next day both men were arrested and did a month each in jail.

Gary Cooper this was not.

by Don Baumgart

MAY DAY OUTING

We will be having another day outing on Sunday May 15th

This time we will be trying our luck just
South of the Huntington Beach Pier.

We will be meeting at 8:00am up on the Boardwalk
between Dukes and the Snack Bar.

Dukes restaurant is right next to the pier.

Don't forget the quarters for the meter!!!

You will recognize us by the metal detectors in our hands.

Huge Nevada County gold nugget auctioned for \$400,000

The fabulous Washington Nugget earned a bid of \$400,000 at auction Wednesday in Sacramento. The gold nugget, weighing nearly 100 troy ounces -- about 7 pounds -- and possibly the biggest intact California nugget in existence, was won by Spectrum Numismatics of Southern California, bidding for an anonymous buyer.

With the auction house's added buyer's premium of 15 percent, the buyer will pay \$460,000. Richard Melamed, a numismatist for Spectrum, declined to identify the buyer or buyer's location and said he did not know what the purchaser intended to do with the piece.

It will be on display at the Sacramento Convention Center through Saturday as part of the American Numismatic Association's National Money Show. The nugget was found near the Nevada County town of Washington last year, in an area familiar to mining geologists.

"We are tickled to death to be able to offer this today," said auctioneer Fred Holabird, after describing his own experiences as a mining geologist in the region where the nugget was found. "This is a texture that any mining geologist will never, ever forget," he said.

The Washington Nugget was just one of hundreds of mining and other historical items offered as part of the Golden West Auction. There were letters from historical figures, mining receipts, Wells Fargo handbills and more.

Most eyes, however, were on the hefty nugget. More than 60 people gathered in a room at the Sacramento Convention Center. A television newsman took cell phone photos of it; even employees of Holabird's company crowded the door as the nugget's lot approached around 4:20 p.m.

Holabird stymied them with a 10-minute break right before the lot, evoking laughs and groans. At 4:30 p.m. he opened bidding at \$250,000. It quickly escalated to \$350,000 as three bidders vied. It stuck briefly at that amount before going to \$375,000 and finally \$400,000.

Holabird brought down his hammer -- a real hammer, not a gavel -- and the crowd applauded. Then most viewers dispersed as Holabird moved on to the remaining auction lots.



By Carlos Alcalá Sacramento Bee

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SCHEDULED OUTINGS 2011

DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

| Meetings | Outing | Claim | Access | Rest Rooms |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--------|------------|
| January 18 | 29-30 | Puppy Feet | Easy | Yes |
| February 15 | 26-27 | Puppy Feet | Easy | Yes |
| March 15 | 26-27 | Puppy Feet | Easy | Yes |
| April 19 | 30, May 1 | Puppy Feet | Easy | Yes |
| May 17 | 28-29 | RM26 Road Side | Easy | Yes |
| June 21 | 24-25 | Condor or TBA | Easy | No |
| July 19 | 30-31 | Condor or TBA | Easy | No |
| August 16 | 2-4 | TBA | Easy | No |
| September 20 | 24-25 | Hidden Gulch or TBA | Easy | No |
| October 18 | 29-30 | TBA | Easy | Yes |
| November 15 | Dec. 3 | Day Outing | 4-WD | No |
| Dec. 13 or 20 | 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
Orange, CA 92856-1491

GOLD NUGGETS - MAY OUTING RAFFLE

