

THE
**ORANGE COUNTY
FORTY-NINERS
GOLDEN AURA**

October 2013



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

October

Happy October 49er's.

I am sorry I missed the last meeting as I looked forward to hearing Bob the privy digger discuss his passion of excavating parts of the lives of people from the past. I understand he put on a good show, displaying hundreds of finds and the discussion of how and where they found.

The club needs ideas for speakers for our monthly meetings, so if you have an idea or name of a speaker, let a Board Member know so we can schedule them. Also, we would like to see more input from the membership for ideas regarding our Outings.

This is the month of our big fall outing (Oct.25th-27th). For our Potluck, the Club will supply the chicken, plates and utensils, do remember to bring your favorite dish for the Potluck, and make it big enough to feed at least eight hungry Members.



The Treasure's Report

September 30, 2013

INCOME

50-50	\$8.00
Raffle	\$125.00
Refreshments	\$7.69
New Member	\$110.00
Income.....	\$250.69

EXPENSES

Rent	\$125.00
Aura	\$491.80
Coin Hunt	\$80.00
Referral Fee	\$10.00
Expenses	\$706.80
Month	\$(456.11)

CHECKBOOK

Stmt Balance	\$12,510.91
Outstanding Cks	\$30.00
Checkbook Balance	\$12,480.91
CD Balance	\$2,353.60
Total Cash.....	\$14,834.51



The Wagon Master's Report

October 2013

Not Available at time of printing



OC 49er Logo Patches

To the Members:

Are any of you interested in purchasing embroidered club patches? These patches will be 3 ½ inches in diameter and will look like our Club's decal. We need to know how many of you may want to purchase the patches, and what is the upper limit you would be willing to pay for the patch. This will allow the Board to determine the feasibility of investing in the project.

If you support the idea of having club patches, inform a Board Member at the General Meeting, an Outing or by email.

Thank You,

The Board of Directors

Claim Jumping

One night early in January of 2009 the owner of a mining company waved down a sheriff's deputy on the road near his mining claim. Using night vision equipment the officer then saw three men with flashlights working in a steep, rocky canyon. When confronted one of the men managed to flee but the other two were arrested carrying a metal detector, rock picks and a hammer and were taken to jail where they were charged with attempted grand theft from a mining claim.

According California Penal Code 487 (d), "every person who feloniously steals, takes, and carries away, or attempts to take, steal, and carry from any mining claim, tunnel, sluice, undercurrent, riffle box, or sulfurate machine, another's gold dust, amalgam, or quicksilver is guilty of grand theft and is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison." It certainly looked like these two men were attempting to steal another person's gold and doing it at night surely adds to that suspicion. It would seem claim jumping is alive and well in the California gold country.

But if this is the law in California, that no man can take another's gold dust, amalgam or quicksilver, and quicksilver is the dreaded mercury that the environmentalists want to eliminate from the rivers and an amalgam is the bond mercury makes with gold enabling the gold to be more easily recovered, then how can anyone clean any river currently under a mining claim without breaking the law? If they attempt to remove the mercury, much less the

gold, from the claim of another man they are, by law, in the act of grand theft and can be sent to state prison.

As far as is known no welcoming hand of cooperation has been extended from those whose desire is to clean the offending toxins from the water to those who own the mining rights. Why? It would seem that cooperation between the two parties would be in the best interest of both sides. Everyone who uses our rivers wants to see the toxin's removed. Suction dredge miners remove mercury in the course of their daily activities. Perhaps the lack of cooperation was a simple oversight on the part of both parties and they will soon meet and work out a solution as reasonable men should.



But what if this is not about cleaning the rivers and protecting fish and wildlife? What if it is simply about the gold? Already miners complain of harassment from state officials that make mining difficult and suction dredge mining impossible. Anyone can take possession of an abandoned claim, or a claim where the requirements of the law have not been met. And finally a claim can be taken by stealth, fraud or force. Keep a careful eye to the claim holders. If they are being forced from their claims then this is simply about the gold. Always remember, mineral rights in America belong to the people not the government, and claim jumping, no matter the reason, no matter the scale, is illegal, no matter who does it.

www.examiner.com

General Meeting

September 17th 2013

Our meeting was called to order at 7;30 p.m. followed by the salute to the flag. Steve Reid gave the Treasure's report. We had one new visitor, Jim Miller.

Bob Hirsch, the "Privi Digger" was our speaker for the evening. He gave a great talk about his finds and brought along plenty of his treasures for us to see, we thank you so much for making our meeting so interesting.

Raffel:

Vile of gold: Jim Miller

Silver dollar: B.A. Skipper

50 cent piece: Sandy Hoon

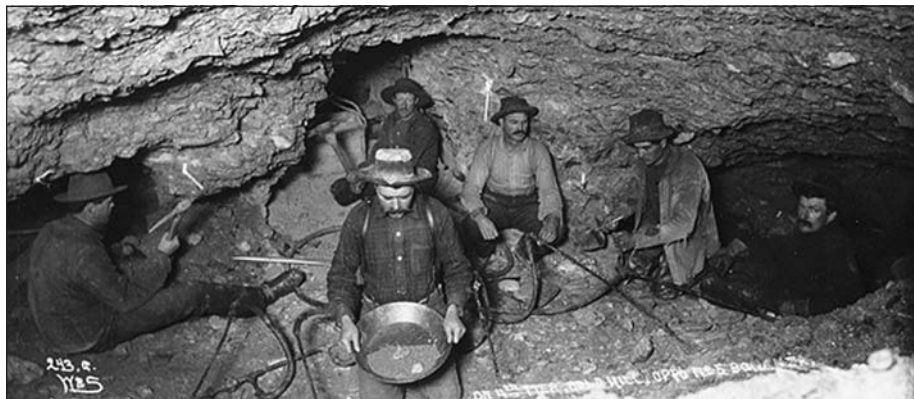
Silver Quarters: Ralph Kolbush, Jim Thompson,
Sandy Hoon, Sandy Hoon

50-50: Ray Proefrock

Membership drawing - Silver dime: Jim Thompson

Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Secretary, Sandy Hunt



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Orange County 49er's

The Lost House Range Placers

THE TALE

The explorers and surveyors of the American West are an august company that includes the great Lewis and Clark as well as a host of other renowned pathfinders. Men like Fremont, Long, Stansbury, Pike, Abert, and Beale opened up the west as surely as the mountain men who preceded them and the sutlers and traders who followed them. One of the most promising of these early explorers and surveyors was an Army engineer and West Point graduate named John W. Gunnison.

The idea of an intercontinental railroad stretching from coast to coast was not new in 1853. Fremont's expeditions during the 1840's were focused on finding the best route through the mountains for a railroad. In 1853, when an expedition was mounted to survey the west-central portion of Utah, John Gunnison was a natural choice to lead the party. His credentials were impeccable. He had cut his teeth as a surveyor for the Stansbury Expedition in 1849 and he knew the central Utah area well. Gunnison assumed command of the party, which included two survivors from Fremont's disastrous fourth expedition of 1848, Richard Kern and Frederick Creutzfeldt. Kern was the expedition's artist and topographer while Creutzfeldt served as botanist. The Gunnison expedition entered Utah Territory in the fall of 1853, passing through the town of Manti on its way to Fillmore. From Fillmore, the party traveled west, reaching the Gunnison Bend of the Sevier River, southwest of present-day Delta. To the west, Gunnison could see the wrinkled peaks of the House Range rising up from the Sevier Valley. To the southwest, he could see the meandering course of the Sevier River as it disappeared toward Sevier Lake. This was a good place. They made camp.

The following morning, the Gunnison Expedition awoke to the sounds of war cries and rifle shots. The end had come. A band of 30 or so Pahvant Indians descended upon the hapless explorers, killing all but four of the party. The dead included the leader, John Gunnison, and the two veterans from Fremont's expedition, Kern and Creutzfeldt.

As he gazed westward the evening before the massacre, Gunnison may have been contemplating a route through the House Range into the Tule Valley beyond. The House Range stretches some 60 miles in a north-south direction and forms the western boundary of Sevier Valley. It extends from Sand Pass southward to the Wah-Wah Valley. Along its entire length the range is no more than 10 miles wide. House Range is transected by three major passes. Dome Canyon Pass is the northernmost pass, Marjum Canyon lies eight miles to the south, and Skull Rock Pass, south of Sawtooth Mountain, forms the southernmost and main portal through the range.

The House Range still holds many secrets. Prospectors have roamed these mountains for over two centuries. Evidence of early Spanish mining activity still occasionally surfaces. Caches of old Spanish tools and mining equipment have been discovered in the central part of the range, near the only major gold-producing area in the entire county.

Millard County has never been a major producer of gold. Only 500 ounces are officially recorded for the county. Most of this production hails from the small placer deposits of the House Range. Located in North Canyon and Miller Canyon, the gold placers were worked extensively during the 1930's. Surely more than 500 ounces of gold were taken from the two canyons during the depression years, not to mention the efforts of the early Spaniards in the area. One story in particular has come down to us regarding an incredibly rich placer deposit somewhere in the House Range. In a single transaction, the discoverer of this placer sold more than 300 ounces of gold - 60% of the total recorded production for the entire county! The discovery occurred sometime during the late 1930's. A Mexican sheepherder working in the House Range stumbled upon a glory hole of placer gold somewhere on the slopes of the mountains. The deposit must have been rich for the Mexican turned up in the nearby town of Delta with several sacks of fine gold dust. On one of his visits, the sheepherder sold more than 20 pounds of gold to a local doctor. Of course, the Mexican never revealed the location of his find and soon dropped out of sight. He was never seen again. Prospectors have searched the House Range for many years but the Mexican's lost placer remains hidden to this day.

MINING HISTORY

The history of mining in west-central Utah must surely begin with the early Spanish prospectors who wandered these deserts and mountains during the 1700's. Evidence for this early Spanish mining activity exists in virtually every mountain range in western Utah. But despite the presence of Spanish tools and mining equipment in the mountains of west-central Utah, there is a general lack of gold deposits in the area.

It wasn't until 1858 that the first major mining operation opened up in western Utah. The Lincoln Mine, located in the mountains northwest of Minersville, produced mostly lead with silver and copper as a by-product. The surrounding hills were laced with metal-bearing veins, some of them quite rich. By the 1870's, prospectors were pouring over the San Francisco Mountains in search of mineral wealth. In 1875, the richest lode of all was discovered. That September, two prospectors named James Ryan and Samuel Hawkes chanced

upon a massive ore deposit on the slopes of the San Francisco Mountains. It turned out to be the Mother Lode! The famous Horn Silver Mine produced a river of silver and lead and over 20,000 ounces of gold as a by-product during its lifetime. In 1876, the mining town known as Frisco sprang up near the Horn Silver Mine. Frisco would go down as one of the wildest of the early mining camps. But it was not to last. The Frisco Mining District died out during the 1930's, after nearly 60 years of operation.

The Depression years would see the discovery of small gold deposits in the House Range, 50 miles north of Frisco. The deposits were meager, consisting only of fine dust and very small nuggets. Recorded production was a miniscule 500 ounces. The best placers were located in North Canyon and in Miller Canyon, which drains the eastern slopes of the range.

GEOLOGY OF THE AREA

The House Range stretches 60 miles from Sand Pass and the Fish Spring Mountains southward to the Wah-Wah Valley. The House Range trends north-south and is less than 10 miles wide throughout its entire length. The crest of the range is dominated by two peaks, Swasey Peak (elevation: 9678 feet) and Notch Peak (elevation: 9655 feet). Both are composed of ancient Cambrian sedimentary rocks.

The House Range is part of the extensive Basin and Range Province of North America. It is a classic example of an uplifted mountain block or horst bounded by two downthrown grabens (Tule Valley and Sevier Valley). The country rock or host rock in the House Range consists of gently folded

and plunging Cambrian and Ordovician sedimentary rocks intruded by a small Jurassic-age granitic pluton. The pluton forms the core of Sawtooth Mountain near the center of the range. In addition, a series of younger Tertiary-age tuffs and ash-flow tuffs occurs in the southern portion of the House Range. These exposures are quite limited in extent.

The Cambrian and Ordovician sediments consist of a thick sequence of limestones, shales, and quartzites, some of which are extremely fossiliferous. The Wheeler Shale and Marjum Formation in particular have been a rich source of trilobites for many years.

PROSPECTING POTENTIAL

The House Range of west-central Utah has been prospected off and on for over two centuries. Unfortunately, the House Range has never been a big producer of gold. Only 500 ounces are reported from the placer deposits in Miller Canyon and the Amasa Valley. Most of this gold was recovered during the 1930's, although some mining activity continues today. The gold here has always been difficult to recover. The area is remote and extremely dry while the gold itself occurs mostly as a fine dust.

Prospectors should probably concentrate on the canyons and ravines that drain the slopes of Sawtooth Mountain, near the center of the range.

This area includes the old placer mining sites in Miller Canyon and the Amasa Valley. Prospectors may also want to search for the source of the placer gold in the rocks above the canyon floors. The contact between the Jurassic pluton and the surrounding limestones and shales is intriguing, although mineralization associated with the intrusion seems to be minimal. Prospectors may want to concentrate on the fault zones in the area, especially those that cut through the local limestones. The source of the House Range placers has never been found. The original lode deposits were probably quite small and have more than likely weathered completely away. It is quite possible that other small deposits lie hidden somewhere in the vicinity of Sawtooth Mountain.

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Interesting Facts for your Warehouse of Useless Knowledge

165. Lorne Greene had one of his nipples bitten off by an alligator while he was host of "Lorne Greene's Wild Kingdom."
166. Los Angeles's full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula" and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its original size: "L.A."
167. Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
168. Many hamsters only blink one eye at a time.
169. Mel Blanc (the voice of Bugs Bunny) was allergic to carrots.
170. Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.
171. Millie the White House dog earned more than 4 times as much as President Bush in 1991.
172. Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of cotton.
173. Montpelier, VT is the only U.S. state capital without a McDonalds.
174. More Monopoly money is printed in a year, than real money printed throughout the world.
175. More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in air crashes.
176. More people use blue toothbrushes, than red ones.
177. Mosquitoes have teeth.
178. Most Americans' car horns beep in the key of F.
179. Most cows give more milk when they listen to music.
180. Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.
181. Most lipstick contains fish scales.
182. Mr. Rogers is an ordained minister.
183. Murphy's Oil Soap is the chemical most commonly used to clean elephants.
184. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple.
185. Non-dairy creamer is flammable.
186. Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously
187. On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament Building is an American flag.
188. On an American one-dollar bill, there is an owl in the upper left-hand corner of the "1" encased in the "shield" and a spider hidden in the front upper right-hand corner.
189. One in every 4 americans has appeared on television.
190. One of the reasons marijuana is illegal today is because cotton growers in the 1930's lobbied against hemp farmers -- they saw it as competition. It is not as chemically addictive as is nicotine, alcohol, or caffeine.
191. One quarter of the bones in your body, are in your feet.
192. Only 55% of all Americans know that the sun is a star.
193. Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
194. Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.
195. Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
196. Over 1000 birds a year die from smashing into windows.
197. Owls are one of the only birds who can see the color blue.
198. Pamela Anderson Lee is Canada's Centennial Baby, being the first baby born on the centennial anniversary of Canada's independence.
199. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
200. Penguins can jump as high as 6 feet in the air.
201. Pinocchio is Italian for "pine head."
202. Playing cards were issued to British pilots in WWII. If captured, they could be soaked in water and unfolded to reveal a map for escape.
203. Polar Bears trying to blend in with the ice will sometimes cover up their black nose with their paws.
204. Pollsters say that 40 percent of dog and cat owners carry pictures of the pets in their wallets.

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Scheduled Outings 2013

Dates and Locations are Subject to Change!

Meetings	Outing	Claim	Access	Rest Rooms
January 15	January 26 - 27	Puppy Feet	Easy	No
February 19	February 23 - 24	Puppy Feet	Easy	No
March 19	March 30 - 31	Puppy Feet	Easy	No
April 16	April 27 - 28	HMC1 & Claim Crawl	Easy	Yes
May 21	May 25 - 26	Duisenburg - LDMA	Easy	Yes
June 18	June 29 - 30	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
July 16	July 27 - 28	HMC1	Easy	Yes
August 20	Aug 30 - Sep 1	Puppy Feet	Easy	Yes
September 17	September 28	Cherry Beach in Long Beach	Easy	Yes
October 15	October 26 - 27	Duisenburg - LDMA	Easy	Yes
November 19	November 30	HMC1	Easy	Yes
December 17	December 17	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 49er's