

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

*A Nonprofit Organization
The Public is Invited to Attend
SVDB Newsletter
Issue Date: April 2005*



Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

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Newsletter

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Day-in-the-Park

Volunteer

Secretary's Minutes for Meeting of March 2005.

- The March meeting was called to order at 7:30. Great turnout by the membership and guests!

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Klein

- New Balance: \$3306.79

Secretary's Report: Rick Costello

- Rick wants everyone to know that dues were supposed to have been paid in January. Single - \$20.00. Family - \$30.00. Oh, we now have 126 card-carrying members. He also has dredge for sale. No particulars but see him.

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

- Everything is fine – a great selection to be had. There are other really great books to check out – new ones, too! Check it out.....

• **LAST CALL!!!! Send your dues to George:
George Magann
1740 Sessler Dr.
Yuba City, CA 95993**

Meetings are now on the **FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH!!!!!!!!!!!!** Same place and same time, but **A NEW DAY!!!!!!!!!!!!**

New Business

- Every member now has a name tag. Come to the meeting to get yours. Now you don't have to play at knowing someone's name – it will be right there for you to see!
- The April Club Hunt is coming – come to the April meeting and hear about the prizes, the details of the hunt, and the menu for the dinner. Just come to the meeting! We know the price: \$25.00 for the hunt and dinner; \$5.00 for just dinner. Remember, the price of silver has gone up and we want silver targets.

Club Hunt & Spaghetti Feed

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April 23

Place: Alta Mesa Gun Club

Time: 1 PM

Address: Reigl Road, Wilton, Ca.

Directions: 99 South – exit at Dillard and go East to Walmort Rd. Right and proceed to Reigl Road. Make a left and straight to the Gun Club.

99 North: Exit on Dillard Road and proceed East – follow directions above.

Great website for directions: www.mapquest.com.

Hope to see you all at the hunt. Remember, MEMBERS only for the hunt; guests for dinner, which will be fun.

Cost: \$25.00 for the hunt and dinner/\$5.00 for dinner.

• Fund Raisers!!!!!! Please, we need to raise our bank balance. Does anyone have an idea for a fundraiser? If so, please e-mail me, come to the April meeting and present your idea. Some already mentioned are: buying a detector from the manufacture at half price and having a raffle, a 50/50 pot every meeting, and silent auction. We need ideas and people who will participate!

• **This is from our President:** I have accepted on behalf of the SVDB to participate during this event - **Roseville Gem and Mineral Blast 2005 this June 10, 11 and 12 at the Roseville Fairgrounds.** The SVDB Club will host the "Learn to Metal Detect Booth" For those who went to Forest Hill Heritage days, it is just like that event.

We will charge \$5 per customer and they will get a quick 10-15 minute lesson on "How to Metal Detect". We will have a planted hunt area that will be taped off for our use. Our Club members will assist the customer in finding and recovery a silver coin or two or three.

This is a great opportunity for our club and I expect everyone to participate.

I need a Event Coordinator/Committee that I can work with to organize this event and this person(s) will be in charge of the event in June. I am not the event coordinator!! Please email me or call 916-415-1558 ASAP. If more than one member is interested that is

GREAT!!

We will have the booth for three days. We will need 5 people at the booth at all times. I was thinking 4-hour shifts will beak the day into 2 shifts. So that is 10 people per day minimum. 30 people for all three days (last day will be 3 hours shifts) Or whatever we decide.

Let's get the ball rolling as we have some time to get prepared before this event. Let's look at his opportunity as a way of raising funds for the club but also as a way of shedding positive light on our hobby!! If anyone wants to create a "Finds" presentation or a "Junk removed from our Parks" board I am all for it!!

- For those who want to have some fun and see great gems and minerals – the Reno Gem and Mineral Society will be having their annual show on May 8th and 9th.
- The AMDA – American Metal Detecting Association – web site is: www.amdaonline.net. Go for it!!!!!!
- Everyone ask Rick Costello and Bob Maytum about the last AMDA hunt. They did very well.

SVDB Day-In-The-Park

There are two day-in-the park hunts per month. The hunts are on the first Sunday and the third Sunday of each month. Breakfast at 8:00am with the hunt starting at 9:00 am. See the following for meeting place:

- ❑ 1st Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Watt and Auburn
- ❑ 3rd Sunday Hunts: Meet at Pancake House at 21st and Broadway

Web Sites/Rock and Mineral Clubs

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society
PO Box 794
Sutter Creek, CA 95685 USA

American River Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
PO Box 621084
Orangevale CA 95662 USA
Club E-Mail: ektipton@charter.net
Contact: Florence Brady (Secretary)

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1-916-961-6868

E-Mail: unavailable

Meetings: 3rd Mondays (except July, Aug. and Dec.),
7:30 P.M., Granite Bay Library, 6475 Douglas Blvd.,
Granite Bay, CA USA

Federation: California Federation of Mineralogical So

Faceters Guild

4270 Silver Crest Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95821 USA

Faceter's Guild of Northern California

4270 Silver Crest Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95821 USA

also:

c/o Wayne Meissner
PO Box 357
Lathrop, CA 95330 USA

Contact: Wayne Meissner
1-209-858-2263

E-Mail: lklomp@cnetech.com

Meetings: Various shows in Northern California due to
members being spread out across the state.

Federation: California Federation

Lodi Gem & Mineral Society

PO Box 572
Lodi, CA 95241 USA

Mother Load Mineralities

PO Box 4948
Auburn, CA 95604 USA

RockRollers

PO Box 212
Roseville, CA 95678 USA

Contact: Frank Yoschak

E-Mail: rockrollers@hotmail.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 P.M., 1550 Maidu Dr.,
Roseville, CA USA

Federation: CFMS, AFMS

Sacramento Mineral Society

PO Box 160544
Sacramento, CA 95816 USA

Contact: Dave Fisk

E-Mail: unavailable

Meetings: Mather Field, 4205 LeMay St., Rancho
Cordova.

Mining in White Pine County, Nevada

By June Shaputis

Early Army and freighters prospected and found gold and silver deposits in what is now known as White Pine County in the 1860's and their placer mining efforts showed enough promise of riches to cause small "booms" in various locations for the next several years. Hamilton, Schellbourne, Black Horse, Ward, Taylor, Aurum, Osceola and many other towns would flourish for a time, then wither away to become empty or almost empty ghost towns. Each mining district and ghost town in White Pine County, Nevada has its own stories that can be found on the ghost town pages. Most claims have been worked sporadically over the years by men who could not give up the hope of "striking it rich." The WPH&AS photo shows a cabin built by Fred Frances in 1893 at the Stinson Mine at Granite. Left to right is: W. D. Campbell, John W. Hudgens, Con J. Hudgens and G. G. Buzzetti.

Thomas Robinson, while prospecting for gold and silver, discovered those ores in the Robinson District in 1868. The abundance of low-grade copper ore in the area interfered with the extraction of the gold and silver using the mining processes then in use.

In 1887, Thomas Rockhill located the Chainman mine in Robinson Canyon. The adjoining Gore, Turvey and Southern Cross mines were taken up by W. N. McGill, James P. McOmie and A. J. Underhill. Thomas Rockhill later traded the Chainman mine to McGill, McOmie and Underhill for the Southern Cross mine, which he still owned in 1907.

About the same time, General A. L. Thomas located the Ely and Mohawk Mines near the Chainman Mine. The Robust Mine changed hands from the Ely - McDonald Company to Richard A. Riepe, General Thomas and Henry Riepe. D. C. McDonald had secured mining property near the Robust mine and in other locations in the hills north of Ely but the gold content was disappointing.

A. D. Campton, the owner of what is now the town site of Ely, Nevada had located the land as placer ground but abandoned the project. Campton was the first person to attempt to smelt copper ore in the Robinson District. Because his only fuel was wood, his efforts were not

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successful.

A. R. "Buckskin" Watson was the original locator of the Joana Mine, east of the Chainman Mine and he is prominently identified with the growth of the Robinson District. He and his partner, Abe Shallenbarger successfully operated an arrastra. Watson's early locations were:

1. Eureka and other claims that were later in the first holdings of the Nevada Consolidated.
2. Pilot Knob and Brooks claims, which were later, owned by the Giroux Consolidated.
3. Part of the land later owned by the Cumberland Ely Company.

A. R. Watson had once turned down \$100,000 for the Joana Mine and the mine became involved in a lengthy litigation suit which lasted several years. By the time the suit was settled in his favor, Watson had used up all of his vast resources and the Joana Mine was taken over by his creditors to settle his debts. Buckskin Watson died penniless several years later.

Between 1892 and 1897, gold mining was attempted haphazardly. Occasionally high-grade silver ore was found but generally those who owned claims near the copper belt sold them and made money off them.

In 1897, Charles D. Lane, a California mining man, purchased the Chainman Mine and Mill on the hillside west of Mineral City. The town name was changed to Lane City. Lane spent \$168,000 in the next two years on a water ditch, power plant, and cyanide plant.

Mismanagement caused the suspension of operations. An Eastern Company bought the property and erected a second cyanide plant near the first one. Sulfide ore was encountered 180 feet deep in a shaft. The cyanide processes could not work the ore. Again, mismanagement and incompetence caused the Chainman to shut down after just a few months of operations. The Chainman Mine properties were purchased by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company but the Chainman Mine stockholders were unhappy with the purchase price and brought suit for possession of the mine.

On the opposite side of the canyon closer to Ely, the Ely Mining and Milling Company bought the Robinson Group and built a cyanide plant near the mine. Sulfides at a short depth caused the mill to shut down there too. Thomas

Kearns, David Keith and others organized the McDonald - Ely Company with D. C. McDonald as manager.

The long ignored copper deposits were finally being explored by mining people and by 1907, thirty mining companies were in operation in the Ely District.

The Giroux Consolidated Copper Company owned the largest single group of underground mining claims in the Robinson District and they ranged from 350 feet to 1,000 feet in depth. The Alpha Shaft was the deepest, descending 1000 feet but even at that depth, it was still into Sulfide ore in 1907. The Taylor Shaft produced some of the richest copper ore in the district. The company erected a 500 ton concentrator to handle the ores from their mines.

Joseph Bray had acquired a group of claims at Copper Flat from Thomas Rockhill and Newton Boyd in 1898. These holdings included the Ruth Mine discovered by McDonald and named for his only daughter. The Ruth Mine was originally purchased for \$1,000. Bray formed the New York and Nevada Copper Company for development purposes but this company was not successful.

In 1913, the Giroux, Ely Mines, Chainman, Ely Central & Butte and Ely Mine companies merged with the White Pine Copper Company, financed by Mark L. Requa and this organization became the Consolidated Copper Company and the company prepared to build a smelter at McGill that would have a capacity to process 10,000 tons of ore a day.

The Consolidated Copper Company led by Requa had a direct hand in bringing the Nevada Northern Railroad a distance of 150 miles (from Cobre to Ely) to transport the copper ore. On September 30, 1906, Mark Requa drove the copper spike made from copper ore from the Ruth Mine into the ground to celebrate the arrival of the train. Over the years, the Consolidated Copper Company developed the Richards, Alpha, Emma and Morris underground mines. In 1922 the company was reorganized in the Consolidated Copper Mines Corporation.

Area Mine deaths 1910 - 1914

Consolidated Copper employed about 1,200 men during World War I and in 1929 in their underground mines. The

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Emma Mine went into production in 1929 and became the top producing mine at Kimberly. Copper prices dropped to 5 cents per pound in 1932 and the mines at Kimberly closed down until January 1937. In 1941 there was more than 1,000 men on the payroll and the skip was surfacing 9,000 tons of ore a day. The underground mines shut down in 1949 and by 1951 were converted into open pit mines.

Kennecott Copper Corporation bought out the Consolidated Copper Mines properties in White Pine County which included the town of Kimberly in January 1958. Kennecott took possession on February 1, 1958. Kennecott offered to sell the mine owned homes and buildings in Ruth and McGill to their employees in the middle 1950's at affordable prices. They made the same offer to employees after purchasing the town site of Kimberly.

The Consolidated Copper Company and the Kennecott Copper Company operated for many years providing jobs, company towns, homes, medical care, and recreation for generations of White Pine residents.

Gradually over the years, the pits have become huge and blended into one another. The pit well may be the largest open pit in Nevada. It is certainly one of the largest in the world. Watching the 240 ton trucks and three-story shovels at work at the bottom of the pit from the mine overlook the mine equipment appeared to be smaller than Tonka toys. In 1998, the copper pit measured 2 miles long, 1 mile wide and 1000 feet deep.

After Kennecott shut down its operations in White Pine County, several other mining companies have reworked the old tailings to extract any ores left in the old dumps. These companies include:

Alta Gold

MAGMA 1995 to 1996

BHP (Broken Hills Proprieties) 1996 to June 25, 1999. Due to low copper and gold prices, BHP announced the closure of all of their North American holdings and laid off 462 White Pine County employees. BHP was the largest employer in the county.

Hardin lost silver story!

While stories of lost mines are plentiful, often creating legends that are slow in dying, it is unusual when one tale of elusive ore leads to a full-scale mining rush and the creation of a boomtown. Such was the case with the lost Hardin silver and the short-lived mining camp of Hardin City in the desolate Black Rock Desert of northwestern Nevada.

James Allen Hardin came west from somewhere in the eastern states, joining a wagon train headed for Oregon in the spring of 1849. He crossed the plains and Rockies on the Emigrant Trail, and took the Applegate -Lassen Cut-Off from the Humboldt River. The train crossed the Black Rock Desert, rounded Black Rock Point, and finally camped to rest for a while at Double Hot Springs.

As the emigrants were short on almost everything by this time, especially food, Hardin volunteered to go hunting in the Black Rock Range. He took John Lambert with him to scout the foothills for something to fill the larders. When they were about three or four miles north of Double Hot Springs they crossed a dry sandy wash where something bright caught Hardin's eye. He stopped to investigate and found chunks of metal scattered throughout the sand in the wash. Thinking it might be lead, and being short of bullets, Hardin and Lambert took some of the shiny rock with them. Finding no game that day, the two men returned to camp. Hardin borrowed an oven that night to cast most of the metal he had found into bullets. He kept one chunk of the ore for use later and carried it with him when the train moved on to Oregon.

Hardin eventually settled in Petaluma, California, where he worked as a carpenter. He had forgotten all about the lead he had found until a neighbor of his, an assayer, happened to see it in his shop one day. The assayer asked if he could test the rock; the result showed that Hardin had years before cast lead bullets containing quite a high percentage of silver.

Hardin immediately began assembling a small expedition to the Black Rock area to stake a claim on the ravine. The *Petaluma Journal* of July 9, 1858, chronicled the party's leaving they go in search of what they believe to be an immense deposit of silver ore. Try as he might, Hardin could not locate the silver again. His group spent the summer of 1858 hunting for it, finally giving up when cold weather set in. The following spring they were all

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back and others joined in the search. No one could locate any trace of the silver. The Paiute War which broke out just south of the Black Rock in 1860 put an end to most of the prospecting in that country. It is not likely that Hardin returned to look for his silver during the next five years.

Then early in 1866 a man from the Honey Lake area of California discovered a ledge that was immediately thought to be the lost silver lode. The word spread like wildfire, and prospectors flocked to the Black Rock Desert to get in on the strike. The camp of Hardin City sprang up near the mines, named in honor of the original discoverer. A small batch of Black Rock ore was worked which yielded significant returns in both gold and silver. When the news was released, the rush intensified. The Humboldt Register, March 24, 1866, reported, "When you see a man sitting in front of a roll of blankets and a frying pan, and behind a Henry rifle, you need not ask him where he is going-he is 'going to Black Rock or burst.' "

Everyone talked about the mines, and during 1866 the Black Rock rush was "all the go," but for some reason only certain shipments of ore gave any returns. Others brought no results at all. Dail's Mill in Washoe Valley was the one that received most of the ore for processing, and it turned out to be the only one which returns on the ore. Other wagon loads were sent to a mill on the Humboldt River, but word came back that the rock was worthless. In spite of this seeming contradiction, the rush continued and Hardin City expanded. A post office and a few businesses opened while two mills were built to avoid sending the ore miles away for refining. The year 1866 was a good year for Black Rock. The true test of the Hardin City ores came the following year, when the mills there began operating in earnest. This time every test showed the ore to be barren of both silver and gold and completely valueless. An expert assayer was called in and, after viewing the situation, claimed that a different reduction process was needed. Modifications were made in one mill, but even then it failed to produce anything. By the middle of 1868 everything had been abandoned and Hardin City passed into history.

Eventually the story came out that the only reason values had been found in the ore at Dail's Mill was because of the process used there. The mill pans had not been cleaned thoroughly before the Black Rock ore was run, and the alkali in the rock picked up the gold and silver left in the pans. Any values merely came from the batches of

Comstock ore which had been run previously. Rock foundations, an arrastra, and depressions where buildings once stood are still visible at Hardin City. The only thing that its failure proves is that Hardin's silver had not been relocated. For the past hundred years numerous adventurers have continued to cover the Black Rock area in search of it. True believers insist that the silver is still in an unknown dry wash, but that it has been covered by the sand and dirt of later cloudbursts. Hardin found it once. As the desert terrain changes continuously, someone may find it again.

Reference to Nevada Lost Mines and buried Treasures by Douglas McDonald

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