



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

December 2009

Club Mailing Address—P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

Meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM — Public Welcome

At Post Falls Senior Center, in the Dougall Room— 1215 E. 3rd. St. Post Falls, ID

See the NFMS web site at www.amfed.org/nfms
See the web site for the club at www.northidahomineralclub.com



**CHRISTMAS PARTY / POTLUCK
WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE DOUGALL ROOM
ON DECEMBER 17 AT 3 PM INSTEAD OF 4 PM**

(WARREN HAS NOIFIED MOST OF YOU ABOUT THIS TIME CHANGE ALREADY)

No gift exchanges—we will all receive “gift rocks”.

THERE WILL BE A DRAWING FOR ALL of our IDAHO CLUB MEMBERS FOR FREE GEM STATE LICENSE PLATES. ONE SET IS BEING GIVEN TO EACH OF 30 PARTICIPATING CLUBS, SO THE PLATE NUMBERS WILL BE 1 TO 30

SIGN UP AS YOU ENTER FOR THIS EVENT.

The name will be submitted as soon as it is drawn.

A short business meeting will follow dinner



Meeting notes from the November 19th 2009 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the President-elect, Warren Price. Warren explained to the club that he will officially become president in January. He stated that he was filling in for Mike Rose tonight because the Roses' have left for their annual trip to Arizona and will not return until spring. Bill Johnson gave the treasurers report

Warren then asked for individuals to be thinking about possible field trips and come up with some suggestions at the next meeting.

Old Business:

Bev Bockman stated that she had mailed out the contracts to the vendors for next years show. There was no other old business.

New Business:

Warren stated that he would like to have a meeting of the new officers to get signatures of approval.

Bev Bockman reported good news. She stated that the rights to Glass Butte in Oregon have been resolved. She stated that there was a court proceeding to determine if the prior owners who had filed a claim to the site but had abandoned the site still had the authority to prevent others from using the site. The claim was denied and rock hounds can now use the site. She also reported that Richardson Ranch is now closed to camping because of people who misused the camp sites, and the ranch gates will be closed and locked at 5 PM.

Bev further reported on, Bill 5799 before the legislature. The bill would cut off access rights to certain water ways and also cut off access to rock hounding sites. She encouraged members to contact their legislators and educate them on the issue. Warren Price has contact information.

A reminder was made to pay dues by the 17th of December for the 2010 year. Family membership is \$17.50 and individual membership is \$10.00. We must submit our membership list to the Federation by Jan 1 to be included in the new directory, and federation dues must be paid.

Everett Headrick provided information on the DNR. He stated that the recreation plan for Western Washington was considering limiting land use and that the Riders Foothills, which is also a popular rock hounding site is being considered to drop from 4,000 access acres to 1,000 acres. The limits are being considered because of ATV damage but the ruling would also limit other users of the property. Everett encouraged members to support the Blue Ribbon Coalition and to input support by December 2, 2009.

Everyone was asked to sign-in and there being no further business the meeting was adjourned. There was no presentation tonight due to media problems. The silent auction was held after adjournment of the meeting and the break. Guest this evening was Marilyn Carter, and former member Heather and her family. Submitted by Maria McDonald, Secretary elect

Got an e-mail from a friend (rockhound) who knows someone in Cd'A who has some nice **rock equipment for sale** at reasonable prices. I can't reproduce the pictures that I got, but there is a 10" trim saw, a faceting machine, a Genie with extra wheels, a Lortone arbor and a Rock Rascal. You may get information by e-mailing ruthbrown1@roadrunner.com. The items belonged to her dad who took exceptional care of the equipment—there are many accessories-laps, dops of all sorts. The faceting machine is a Ray-Tech Shaw. If you want any good used equipment for Christmas, now is the time!!! BB

This is not a Christmas story—but apparently it is a true story and I found it interesting and also tragic. From United Prospectors Inc. Newsletter, 8/99, via the Glacial Drifter, 9/01, and The Rock collector 11/01.

Unintended Consequences by Jerry Bowen

I'm always on the lookout for an unusual story from the past. Old-timer miners experienced all kinds of unusual circumstances during their legendary quest for gold. Recently I ran across this one which I think rates very high in the bizarre category.

During the 1850's and 60's in the Mother Lode region, murder and assorted mayhem weren't exactly uncommon. Many ended up facing quick justice dangling from the end of a rope without the formality of an assembled court.

Henry Meacham arrived in Nevada City in the early 50's while it was still possible to pan out a fortune from the tributaries of Deer Creek. He left a wife and young son in New Jersey while he sought his fortune in California.

Henry was a conscientious worker and before long had accumulated enough dust to finance a dig into the side of a hill to reach the rich quartz which had been discovered in the area during the previous year. He even constructed a crude stamp mill to separate the gold from the rock.

From the very first his operations paid off. He located a rich vein which kept him busy hauling the broken rock to the surface and his mill.

After a time, he discovered that some unknown person was helping himself to the rich rock at the foot of the shaft while Henry slept after a long hard day of work. It was also about this time that Henry decided to take a portion of his gold back to New Jersey and return with his wife and son. He cashed in his surplus dust at the Wells Fargo office in Nevada City and banked the small fortune against the day when he would return with his family.

Before leaving, Henry made a decision to protect his mine against intruders during his absence. Taking one of his picks he reamed a hold through the handle near the grip end. Running a wire through the hole he looped it to a piece of overhead plank near the face of his workings deep in the mine. When the pick was suspended, the sharp point hung at about the height of a man's head. Then using another loose timber, which would have to be pushed out of the way by anyone attempting to penetrate the shaft, he rigged a trigger.

It was simple and ingenious. If anyone pushed the trigger to one side as they proceeded along the shaft, the pick would swing down and strike him in the head. Henry was not a belligerent or bloodthirsty individual, but extreme measures were necessary in the age when lawlessness was prevalent. Once he had the device rigged to perform its lethal task, he timbered the mouth of the shaft and covered the blocked opening completely with earth and rock.

No one seems to know what happened to Henry after that. He never reached the wells Fargo office with his dust, and his letters to his family ceased to arrive. Probably some nefarious individual, guessing Henry's plan, murdered him before he was able to get into town, stole his gold and hid his body in some out-of-the-way spot where it was never found.

The entrance to the shaft remained blocked, and brush, and even trees, took root in the earth eventually erasing all traces of the booby-trapped mine.

Henry's wife, a frugal woman, had carefully saved the funds from the gold Henry had sent before he disappeared, using only what they needed for household expenses and his son, Jim, grew to manhood.

As the years went by with no word from Henry, Jim Meacham managed to receive a good schooling and prepare himself for the day when he would support his mother. It was on his 21st birthday, only a week after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in April, 1865, that the widow Meacham showed her son one of the last letters she had received from Henry.

It was almost in the nature of a will. In the missive Henry described his mine; its location with regard to certain landmarks, and the almost limitless treasure of gold laden quartz which was to be theirs for the taking. It was then that the widow told her son of the plans which she'd had for him throughout the long years since the letters had stopped coming.

He was to go to California and attempt to learn, if possible, what had happened to his father and if he was unable to find Henry, to investigate the mine and see if he could work it at a profit since it was the only inheritance left them.

Traveling by train that very summer to the railhead in Wyoming, he joined a wagon party to continue across Utah and Nevada and the Sierras. At Emigrant Gap the wagons swung off on the Bear River trail which led them toward Nevada City and Grass Valley. Jim had little difficulty locating the claim from his father's description. After doing a bit of reconnoitering, and observing the heavy growth of brush which hid the mine opening, he returned to Nevada City for what he would need to penetrate into the shaft. In a few days the last shovel full of earth was removed and the heavy timbers thrown to one side. Ahead stretched the tunnel of his

father's bonanza. It is doubtful that young Jim ever knew what struck him or could he possibly have had any knowledge of the connection between his fatal injury and the attempt by his father to protect the property. Inquisitive miners in the area had observed Jim excavating the mine entrance. When he failed to reappear after going into the shaft, they lit their oil lamps and crept down into the gloom. They found the young explorer near the mine face, the pick still swinging like a pendulum with its tip smeared with Jim's blood. A stone in the old town graveyard, its engraving worn by the elements, marks Jim Meacham's last resting place. Although there was little that would have prevented the men who discovered Jim from appropriating the mine without a thought of what had happened, they retained some of their respective consciences. They communicated with the widow Meacham, withholding the nature of the accident and any possible connection Henry might have had with his son's death. The men also volunteered a deal with the widow by which she received a share of the Murder Mine's earnings throughout the years.

There were many curious and strange happenings in the Gold Rush country, some even more peculiar and improbable than the death of Jim Meacham. It is a sad circumstance that Henry Meacham's plan to discourage unwelcome callers misfired. But, in the final analysis, despite the fact that his own son was his unfortunate victim, he was only doing the thing anyone would have done under the circumstances. Probably today, the bones of Henry and Jim lie only a short distance from one another in their respective graves within the gold-rich earth of Nevada Country.

GOLD TRIVIA (as long as I was writing about gold I decided to continue in the same vein.) (no pun intended BB)

Atomic Symbol: Au Atomic Number: 79 Atomic Weight: 196.967 Specific Gravity: 19.3

Melting Point: 1,945 deg. F./Boiling Point: 5,371 deg F.

Gold was formed with the earth's crust, generally in quartz veins, millions of years ago.

Gold makes up .001 ppm of the earth's crust. In the sea it is approximately .004 ppm.

Iron meteorites have been found to contain gold in concentrations as high as 7 ppm.

Gold is very dense; 1.5 times heavier than lead; 19.3 times heavier than water.

Gold is malleable. An ounce of gold can be hammered into a thin sheet of at least 100 square feet.

An ounce of gold can be stretched into a thin wire more than 50 miles long.

A thread drawn from one ton of gold would stretch to the moon and back.

Gold is used in computers, weaponry, spacecraft and in the treatment of chronic ulcers and surgery to patch damaged nerves, blood vessels and bones (to name a few uses).

Electrical conductivity is 71 times that of copper.

Various industries use 1,750 tons of gold a year.

Dentists use 3 tons a year.

According to Alaska's Mineral Industry 2003, major operators produced 528,044 ounces of gold in 2003. 505,004 ounces were in the form of hard rock mined gold and 23,000 ounces were in the form of placer mined gold.

Annual world production of gold approaches 50 million ounces. Of that: 12 million ounces are from South Africa, 9.3 million ounces are from Australia, 8.9 million ounces are from the U.S.A., 4.9 million ounces are from Canada, and 4.3 million ounces are from Russia.

24 carat gold is pure and is attainable only through processing and refining.

21-23 carat gold is natural placer gold; 91-98% pure.

18 carat gold is 75% pure and 25% alloy (generally silver).

14 carat gold is 58% pure and 42% alloy (generally silver).

10 carat gold is 40% pure (an example is Black Hills Gold which is alloyed with copper).

77% of all gold recovered is by lode mining and is crushed, processed and refined.

20% of all gold recovered is a byproduct of other base metal mining and must be refined.

Only 3% of gold recovered is from natural placer deposits.

An average of 80 cubic yards of gravel must be 'sluiced' to find 1 ounce of placer gold.

Like snowflakes, no two nuggets are alike. The largest gold nugget ever found in Alaska was in 1998 near Ruby, Alaska, by miner Barry Clay. It weighed 294.10 ounces.

The largest gold nugget ever found in the world is known as the "Welcome Stranger Nugget". It was found at Moliagul, Victoria Australia, on the 5th of February, 1869. It weighed 2,284 ounces.

Gold was first discovered in Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula in 1848.

Joe Juneau's 1880 discovery of gold ushered in the gold rush era.

A one ounce gold nugget is as rare as a 5 carat diamond.

Less than 1/10 of 1% of gold is found in nugget form ... Of this only 10% is selected for jewelry.

The article on the previous page is from the pages of the Rock-A-Teer —July /Aug. 2003 —continued below.

——Poker Creek is a short distance from the famous Klondike Gold Fields. Early stamperders down on their luck could spend a few days along the creek and pan enough gold for another poker game, thus the name “Poker Creek”. The gold from this area comes from veins that are part of the Pre-Cambrian Cap. ...one of the oldest geological formations on earth.

The information above was provided by Poker Creek Gold. It is a retail business in Ketchikan, and specializes in placer gold nugget jewelry.



From our kitty **Minnie Purr**. You can tell she loves the holidays! **Bev** (why we have no tree!)

Contacting congress:	D.C. phone	email
SENATOR MIKE CRAPO (R-ID)	202-224-6142	http://crapo.senate.gov/conact/email.cfm
SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH (R-ID)	202-224-2752	http://risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email
REPRESENTATIVE WALT C. MINNICK (D-01)	202-225-6611	http://minnick.house.gov/contact-zip-auth.shtml
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SIMPSON (D-02)	202-225-5531	http://simpson.house.gov/Contact/

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| <p><u>OFFICERS FOR 2010</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warren Price—President James Finckbone—Vice Pres. Secretary - Maria McDonald Treasurer — Bill Johnson Federation director—Everett Headrick Federation Delegate—open | <p><u>Committees for 2009</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality – Sherla Francis Field Trips—Bill Johnson Membership- Bill Johnson <p>Show Chairman-2010 Warren Price</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Editor—Bev Bockman <u>ARTICLES WELCOME</u> Program Chairman-Bev Bockman <u>AND CLUB MEMBERS PLEASE !!!!!~</u> |
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CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Everett H.

Affiliated with;

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL



Happy Holidays to all!



**2009 Rock and Gem Shows in
WA., OR. , ID. & MT**

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND ROCK CLUBS.

Mewrry Christmas and ha-PPY NEW YEAR!!!

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms FOR SHOW DETAILS

