

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!

Dear Members

November 9, 2008

For the first time ever our November outing was washed out! In the past couple of years we have had a snow day and a rain day but this year the whole weekend was wet. Thankfully we were able to communicate by email. Not having a phone would have been a real problem. Some of the brave members that did make it in left early when they realized the weather was not any fun to mine in. We will be looking at changing the date of this outing and the Bear River outing earlier in 2009. Apparently the weather is changing to rain more and lasting longer. Maybe in early Spring we can have a weekend here at the mine for everyone. When the weather turns warm and dry I will plan a trip to the Gleeson Pit via the email. I am sure that Don will be taking the Expo Team out before the snow hits the high country.

It seems impossible that we are getting ready for winter and the upcoming Holidays. We just started stacking our firewood and I'm already burning it most all day! We hope that all of you are doing well and can enjoy the Holiday season with good health.

We will post our Outing Schedule for 2009 by the first of the year. Since the price of gas and deisel are down, maybe we can make a trip to Nevada next year for 3 or 4 days. If you think you would be interested it would probably be around Father's Day as the weather is still nice then. Let us know so we can talk about where we want to go prospecting.

The annual Sixteen-To-One mine tour on 10/18/08 went very well. We had 8 members that attended and Mike Miller, the president, gave the tour himself. I talked to Mike and he would like us to try and schedule a date and time earlier as weather could be a problem during the 2nd or 3rd weekend in October. If we could get at least 10 we can get a better price break. So again, just let me know who would be interested.

We hear that the IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE's long awaited environmental impact report will be ready anytime. The Planning Commission and City Council will hold a 45-day public review. We wish them well so they can get on with mining!

Don and I have taken the time this year to show the mine to the Foresthill Hill Historical Society. We had been been putting this off and finally said it was time. 14 members visited and Don talked about the Gold Rush History of the Foresthill Divide. Afterward we had a picnic lunch and enjoyed visiting with them. We have a wonderful Museum in Foresthill and very dedicated volunteers. If you are up in the area take the time to stop by to let them know you are a Goldhound! Troy and Sandy Semester are the docents that run the museum and very helpful. Donna Coffman is a good friend, and a Goldhound member. Donna also helps at the Museum in Auburn as a Historical Advisor.

Also this past month we had a mine day for the Iowa Hill/Colfax School 3rd and 4th graders. Mr. Marks, Cathy Morgan and the Principal John Day along with 2 teachers and 15 children managed to find their way down Copperbottom Rd. to the mine. Don took them into the Mine and they were so excited about that - and when he told them they could have a piece of rock on the outside of the mine, they grabbed them up. Then back up the hill to the "Miner's Diner" where we served them lunch and sat around the big fire pit. Both teachers were named "Michelle" so that was easy to remember. They ask me if we lived here all year around and did we have to deal with Copperbottom Rd. in the winter? I said yes and I think they are still in shock! We received "Thank You" letters from the children and one said that when we got rich she would be back to visit... ok? I'm ready!

Our T-shirts are in and also some very nice ones that Don Nichols has made. If you are interested in a special size, Don Nichols will try to get it for you. Don is a member and does a great job on the shirts, please go through him for any orders. I will have our gold panning T-Shirts this month but not at the Christmas Pot-luck. Thanks so much!

Our Pot-luck meeting on 12/12/08 will be a very busy time, so we will be there after 4pm on Friday. If you want to come early and help set up, Great. After the first of the year we will be making some changes to our "Project Love" for 2009. We will meet with the Iowa Hill community leaders to change directions.. I want to thank every one for your years of help and support with this community. To Kathy and Bill Percy for their work and commitement over the years. There were many times that they came up to help Don & I wrap presents, put food in boxes, and delivered everything the morning of the Christmas Party. With Love, Annie

CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK AND IOWA HILL "PROJECT LOVE." 12/12/08

Thanks to Sam and Henrietta Markley for their long dedication to this Community. Sam will retire this year and we cannot thank them enough for all they have done for the Iowa Hill School & Community. Bless you.

At Christmas time we have two drawings, our regular raffle and a special one for Iowa Hill. When you bring in your gift or gift certificates in for the children you will get one raffle ticket only for the special raffle.

Goldhounds adopted this Community and School 15 years ago. During Christmas we give turkeys, canned food baskets and gift-certificates to the children. Most of the children need warm clothes, backpacks, school items, and shoes. Many of you give through-out the year as they can always use shoes and clothing.

We have 3 children in school and 16 needy youngsters and teenagers in the area that are home schooled. The certificates are given to the Community Club, Doug Fales, president, and our teacher's aide and helper, Cathy Morgan and crew. They determine what the children need and give accordingly. In the past Kathy Percy and I had to determine what was needed. Finally Kathy said let us give this chore to the Community! Great idea! This change has helped me greatly because this community is very needy and they know who needs the help.

Until you visit the Iowa Hill School you would not understand the environment these youngsters are brought up in. They need help and we can only hope that in some way Goldhounds has made a difference in their lives. If you attend the school and meet the children that have graduated, they all know the Goldhounds and "Santa."

Bill & Kathy Percy were Mr. and Mrs. Santa for many years. Then Sam and Henrietta became Santa and Mrs. Santa. We can never thank you all for your help. I realize that this is our community but it is a very unique small Gold Rush town that is depressed. I don't see a future for this great old historical town. We hope that someone will come along and see the treasures that this town can give. Thanks everyone, give what you can as I know times are tough.

GOLD RUSH ERA ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION

Excerpts from Carmel-Barry Schweyer, Auburn Museum newsletter. Dec.2008 -

A ladies hat found on the trail near Auburn caused a hilarious celebration in the days of '49. Miners gathered for miles around and hoisted the hat on a pole and danced and cavorted around it for three days! The population of Placer County consisted of nearly 10,000 men between 20 and 30 years old-entertainment and recreation was automatic.

Common forms of entertainment for early miners included bull and bear fights, baseball, circuses, concerts, picnics, recitals, orations, and holidays celebrations. Miners celebrated the 4th of July in grand fashion throughout the mining camps. The Placer Herald reported a huge celebration in Horseshoe Bar in 1852. The miners there decided to erect a 100 foot flagpole so that all of the miners up and down the river could see it for the 4th of July. They asked Mrs. Sarah Smyth, the 15 year old wife of one of the miners and the only woman in the area, to sew the flag. The celebrations began with a torchlight procession from Smiths Point to Whiskey Bar where they forded the river and were met by miners from Rattlesnake Bar, Kentucky Bar, Oregon Bar, Granite Bar, Dolan's Bar, and Negro Hill. Five thousand men formed the line, marched down to the American River and around the flag pole at Horsehoe Bar. Mrs. Smyth was called on to give a toast with a glass of wine. Confused for a moment, she then held up the glass and said, "The Flag of our Union, long may it be the hope of the oppressed and home of the free." She then spilled the wine and the flag was hoisted slowly to the top of the pole while a band of 11 miners played The Star Spangled Banner. They had a large barbeque and festivities and at 3:00 in the morning, all who were able to walk, started back with their lit torches parading to their home camps.

Bull & Bear fights provided lively entertainment and attracted large crowds early in the Gold Rush, however by 1854 both Placer Press and the Placer Herald newspapers of Auburn reported that they were not well attended by "citizens of this city." Both papers objected to this "disgusting amusement" and John Gwynn wrote a letter to the editor opposing the event, especially since it was held on the Sabbath. The fights were held across the ravine and on the hill opposite the Placer Herald building. So that ended that entertainment!

Gold in the Foresthill Divide.

Melonies Fault strikes through the Divide

Gold and Quartz together

Divide has richest gold deposits in U.S.

By Don Robinson

One of the most complex questions that we can ask with respect to mining is “Where does the gold come from?” There are literally tons of books about where to find gold; the various pieces of equipment used to extract it; and a multitude of technical methods to separate the gold once it’s concentrated. Most of the basics in the various books are generally the same, but once past the initial process of general information, the books end. Why? The subject is too complex and there are still many unanswered questions about the source of gold and mineral extraction.

Let’s start at the beginning with known information and we’ll proceed from there. It is universally recognized that gold is a basic element, and is identified in the Periodic Table of Elements in every chemistry book and publication about the subject. Gold is identified with the symbol of “Au.” This comes from the Latin word “aurum,” meaning gold. It has been assigned an atomic number of 79 for identification; has a 2.5 to 3 hardness scale (soft, as compared to quartz which is 7, and a diamond which is rated at 10); and a specific gravity of 19.3, which makes it one of the heaviest minerals.

The next known facts about gold, specifically in California, come from our mining history. Since the gold rush of 1848 we have been documenting the location of various mines, mining districts, and prospecting activities that have pin pointed the location of the precious metal. The map with this report illustrates the great state of California and the various identified mining areas. Just about every location in California, with some exceptions, show mining deposits or locations, and by far the heaviest concentrated territory lies from Mariposa County, going north, through Plumas County. Right in the middle of this “zone” is Placer County. Deposits are then sprinkled southeast of Mariposa County all the way to the southern tip of California.

This unique zone from Mariposa County through Plumas County has been designated as “The Mother Lode.” Mariposa County is considered the southern end and Plumas County is the northern boundary. Some geologists consider Grass Valley and Nevada City the northern end of the Mother Lode. This “Mother Lode” designation comes from our gold rush miners, as they sought to identify the source of the enriched gold deposits.

We’re now ready to take the next step, and that’s into some basic geology. First, gold is just about everywhere, but not in concentrations that make it either visible or mineable. Here is a number to think about...gold’s natural occurrence in the earth’s crust is .004 PPM (parts per million). How much is that? That’s .000004 % of the weight. Let’s take one ton of rock for our example and see how much gold would be in it. If you calculate this out, the answer is .000067 ounces of gold in that one ton of rock. (troy weight). Can you see that amount? No way.

Using the gold’s natural occurrence in the ground, a mining company would have to crush about 150 tons of rock to secure a spec of gold that would fall through a window screen that is ten times smaller than your average home window screen. With really keen eyes, you might see this spec of gold.

Let's get down to basics. An element's natural occurrence in the earth's crust, expressed as a percentage of the crust, is known as its "clarke." The percentage above the natural crustal concentration to form mineable ore (and visible gold) is called the "clarke of concentration." So how does Mother Earth increase this natural occurrence to make the gold visible and hopefully mineable?

Now we're starting to venture into new territory. The formation of California is covered extensively in a college textbook *California Geology* and in a secondary book *Geology of the Sierra Nevada*. Both cover the theory of plate tectonics, which is now recognized as the driving force that has created this continent and specifically California for their studies. In plate tectonics, the subduction of the Pacific plate under the North American plate has created California and all its complexities, including the San Andreas Fault and inland, the Melonies Fault, which travels right through and slightly northeast of Foresthill.

Our interest is the Melonies fault and its fractured zone area. The fracturing process provided avenues for mineralized solutions to rise from the magma chambers below the earth's surface. This fractured zone was roughly about five to ten miles each side of the fault, and more on the eastern side than the western side. For Foresthill, the mineral quartz was one of the solutions to rise in these pathways created by the massive faulting. However, initially these quartz veins did not carry gold. That's because the melting and cooling temperatures of different minerals vary, and quartz rose up in the solutions before gold.

Visually look at this from the viewpoint that quartz, in solution, rose through these small fractured zones and solidified on the surface and in the veins. Once that's done, force the gold up through the same fractured zones penetrating the quartz in the areas where the quartz was itself fractured enough to permit the gold penetration. This is the basic principle, with lots of complexities. Therefore, not all quartz carries gold because of its compact density, and other quartz does because it was fractured enough to permit penetration. Add to this process multiple occurrences of this flow of mineralization and you have today's conditions.

Please take into consideration this explanation is over simplified and even this simplistic approach is not agreed upon on by all geologists. However, this is the present general understanding of the process.

With all this said, these gold and quartz systems were formed together about 150 million years ago. Now add mountain building and erosion processes since that time and we have these gold bearing quartz veins being broken up and deposited into ancient river channels, and in today's modern channels. This is placer gold, that is, gold broken out of veins and deposited in the river channels. The Divide miners worked these channels for their gold, and this mining activity was the basis for most of the mining on the Divide during the gold rush years.

However, let's not overlook the fact that many of the gold bearing veins of the Divide are still here. The difficulty is finding them. There are some vein systems currently being worked on the Divide, as that is also true for placer mining. Because of our closeness to the Melonies fault zone, and the mineralization that occurred 150 million years ago, the Divide still has some of the finest placer and hardrock deposits for gold mining in the United States.

Bibliography: California Geology, by Deborah Harden, Prentice Hall, N.J. 1997; Geology of the Sierra Nevada, by Mary Hill, University of California Press, Berkeley, Ca. 1975; Dana's Textbook of Mineralogy, Fourth edition, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1932; Source of Mother Lode Gold, by Roscoe Smith, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Ca. published in "California Geology", May 1981; Mineral Deposits, by Lindgren, McGraw-Hill Books, New York and London, 1933.

James Bickford – Michigan Bluff Miner

1.3 Million in a 40 x 100 ft room

Daily to work and back – 9 miles of walking

By Don Robinson

In the late 1860's Michigan Bluff was a center for many of the nearby mines. Going north, within a walking distance of five miles, were mines named the Daniel Webster, Manhattan, Turkey, Drummond Pit, Franklin Pit, Bower, the Oro, Gas Hill, Herman, Cameron, and the Ayres, not even to mention all the mine sites at Michigan Bluff itself. The miners who worked at these nearby northerly mines, particularly those who had families, chose to live in town making life much simpler and acceptable for family conditions. Walking three or four miles to work each day was not considered a hardship, even though it might mean getting up at the crack of dawn, and leaving the mine site just in time to get home at dark.

Such was the case for J. S. Bickford, who, at 24 years old, had decided to file a claim on a abandoned mine north of Michigan Bluff. The Ayres mine site was about 4 ½ miles from town, and he had been exploring the site for some time now. The underground placer mine had a brief, glorious run and then they lost the pay, and finally went off to better pastures.

Today there is very little history available about the Ayres. The best information found so far is taken from "The Auriferous Gravels of the Sierra Nevada of California," by J. D. Whitney and was written in 1880. To quote: "At the Ayres Claim, on the east side of the ridge facing El Dorado Canyon, north of Michigan Bluff from a space, near the mouth of the tunnel, about a hundred feet long and from thirty to forty feet wide, about \$30,000 was taken out, and after that nothing further was found." (This mine started as an open pit placer, since Eldorado Canyon had cut through the buried channel.)

Now, with the gold selling at \$16.00 per ounce at the time the Ayres was operating, this total gold recovery would have represented 1875 ounces of gold. At today's price of about \$730.00 per ounce, the gold would have a value of just over one million three hundred sixty-eight thousand dollars. So what happened?

Why did they run out of gold? J.S. Bickford didn't understand it, and he was determined to find out why. It initially appeared to him they had lost the pay streak and had considered the channel barren after this one pocket was cleaned out. He had studied the old workings, took samples, observed the bedrock profile and had a hunch about the real problem. To him it looked like the Ayres miners had been working a high bench deposit, and that this intervolcanic channel had actually cut a lot deeper before it had been buried again by later volcanic flows.

James had studied these channels all over the Divide, and the boulders in this ancient river were mostly volcanic in nature, rather than the quartz rock that he had observed in some of the other flows. The geologists of the time knew the quartz channel was pre-volcanic because of the river gravel composition, and had already determined that at least three volcanic periods occurred over millions of years after that. For a brief review, consider the first channels were the quartz gravel channels, then getting buried in deep mud and lava flows. This was the first volcanic period. After this first volcanic

episode had subsided, new river channels started cutting their paths, this time carrying volcanic boulders from the eruption process. These channels ran for millions of years, sometimes cutting through and deeper than the original pre-volcanic rivers.

Then the Second period of volcanic action started, now burying the channels of the First volcanic period, and once this subsided, new channels started flowing again. These new channels sometimes cut through the volcanic flows and the rivers of the First period and the pre-volcanic rivers before the First period.

The Third period of volcanism set in, burying the Second period channels and once this subsided, new rivers started again. As before, some cut previous buried rivers, making this whole process complicated and very difficult to piece together. It was relatively easy to determine the pre-volcanic river gravels, but almost impossible to determine in which period the intervolcanic channels actually occurred.

James knew this was intervolcanic, and that from observing the bedrock formations, he concluded there was a deeper flow and just maybe this deeper flow would contain even more gold than the Ayres mine had originally found.

He drove some exploratory tunnels and indeed found deeper gravels, and based upon this, and finding the new bedrock level, decided to come around lower on the mountainside and drive a new drift through the bedrock rim, and directly into the bottom of the new flow. This was risky business, because he might be wrong in his evaluation, and even if he was right about the elevation levels, maybe there wouldn't be the gold he hoped for.

Every morning at dawn he was up and hiking. Four and ½ miles to the mine site, and then a full hard day of single jacking his two foot drill holes, shooting, and mucking out every round. This cycle took him about four days each time and, as he advanced further and further underground, the cycle took longer because he had to move the waste material a greater distance to the portal.

Four hundred and forty feet later he popped through the underground bedrock rim right into the ancient river channel. The gold was there! – and he had calculated the entry point into the channel almost perfectly. He was about three feet low, which was just fine because the water flowed out the portal just as he had hoped, and the ore car grade were perfect for moving ore to the outside for processing.

He named the mine the Bickford Mine and later changed the name to the Swift Shore. He worked this mine for forty years, driving over 2000 more feet of drifts, with considerable breasting inside the mine, and raised his family in Michigan Bluff. He was considered one of the leading men in the county. The "History of Placer and Nevada Counties" by Lardner and Brock, 1924, has a full page picture dated 1917, showing James Bickford, then age 81, with H.L. Eman, age 84, L. Remier, age 80, and Jake Welker, then age 82. They were standing in front of Governor Stanford's old house, which was built in 1853. All four men were considered pioneers of the time, each contributing to our great history that has made this area a mining legend.

James Bickford was not going to let this mine come to an abrupt end, even at the age of 81. He insisted that his family continue to maintain the mining rights to the mine and indeed they worked it during the great depression years. The mine has stayed in the family since that time.

Societe´ Anonyme Des Mines De Golden River

The Red Point Mine - near Damascus

1552 feet of tunnel, and still no channel

Gold was consistent, paying well

A new air-compressor driven engine - a Placer County first

By Don Robinson

In previous Goldhound articles we have covered the Mountain Gate Mining Company and the Hidden Treasure Mine. For just a quick review, the Mountain Gate Mining Company was created in 1863, as a combination of four mines. They mined the ancestral “white” channel and followed this buried river channel underground, downstream. This mining activity also started Michael Powers and William Cameron searching for the downstream extension of the white channel in 1875, and subsequently starting the famous Hidden Treasure Mine.

Keep in mind that the white channel contained boulders and gravel that was almost all quartz, thus the term “white” channel because of the white quartz rock. In other Goldhound newsletters articles we’ve discussed geologic river flows after the white channel was buried by volcanic lava and mudflows. These later river flows, after cutting through the volcanic overburden, sometimes cut deeper, going through the white channel and even lower by several hundred feet. Some of these “intervolcanic” flows also carried good gold, and this story is about one of those mines that worked an intervolcanic channel, and made a fortune in the process.

Since these river channels were subsequently buried by other volcanic activities, how did they go about finding this old channel? The story traces its origin to the Mountain Gate Mining Company, who, in the process of drifting downstream on the buried white channel, found the white channel cut off completely by a flow of volcanic material. Envision following river gravel underground, to find it suddenly gone. What happened? The explanation is difficult without blackboards and diagrams, so keep this in mind as you try to see this picture.

In this particular case, an intervolcanic channel had cut down through the overburden, down through the white channel, and down deeper by 90 feet. Then this intervolcanic channel was later buried by other volcanic flows, filling up the cut through the white channel. Along comes the Mountain Mining Company and they run right into this volcanic material. They were smart enough to know some about this geologic process, so they decided to follow the bedrock down, and, after going down almost 90 vertical feet, found the top of the intervolcanic channel that had cut its way through. This new, lower intervolcanic channel carried lots of gold, and was termed the Blue channel. This lower channel was then worked up and down stream for 1400 feet, establishing its direction as flowing southwesterly. - this also meant the channel had likely come out of the northeast.

We finally get to our story, starting in 1886...

A French investment group was actively searching the Foresthill Divide for mining opportunities and had hired C.F. Hoffman, a prominent mining engineer, to help them locate a mining project. Hoffman concentrated on an area up the Divide past the Mountain Gate properties, and this side of Westville. Basically he was looking at an area about one and one-half miles south of the old mining town of Damascus.

The French investment company was called the “Societe´ Anonyme Des Mines De Golden River”. Some later mining references called them the Golden River Mining Company, which was a simplistic translation - and so will I. Hoffman filed mining claims for the Golden River Mining Company northeast of the Mountain Gate Mining Company properties, after an extensive analysis of bedrock outcrops which convinced Hoffman that the newly located “Blue” channel was going to be underneath the northeast claims just filed. Was he right?

On July 2, 1886, the Red Point tunnel was started with six men working full time. The tunnel was seven feet high, eight feet wide, with an average grade of three inches per one hundred feet. This very slight uphill grade was just right for the ore cars to be pushed in and to roll out with the slight downhill grade. Too steep a grade would make it very hard to push empty ore cars back to the face where they were working, and too steep a grade downhill would give the ore cars far too much speed, wearing out the brakes. The three inches per one hundred feet was perfect. On January 31, 1887, the tunnel had reached a distance of 1552 feet, and still no channel. Twenty-two men were now working at the mine, which included miners, two engineers, a timberman, and two blacksmiths. Total cost to this point was \$19,239.85 for running the tunnel. This included labor, Giant Number 1 and 2 powder, Fuse, timber, freight costs, steel rail, air and water pipes, horse feed, candles for underground light (1,760 pounds), and various other items.

While this was in progress \$15,080.95 was also spent getting the surface and plant ready for operation. This included a 6,500 foot long road to reach the tunnel from the main Divide, a boarding house, office, blacksmith shop, stable, powder house, snow sheds, framing sheds, water works, a large air compressor, ore cars, two tunnel horses, with an additional two horses and buckboard.

So the French company was already down \$34,000 and still no guarantee that they would ever reach the channel. \$34,000 was a lot of money for those times. A decision was made to put in another "raise" to try and locate the channel above them. In previous Goldhound articles we have discussed these raises (driving a tunnel straight up), hoping that the drift tunnel being worked was lower than the buried river, and that the raise would come into the bottom or at least the rim of the old channel above them.

Twenty-two feet up the raise they hit pay dirt. They came into the channel, and proceeded to go



Red Point Mine mill building. The top level is the portal entrance.

up the raise and work the channel for 500 feet downstream and a greater distance upstream towards the east. This method permitted them to dump the ore down a chute into the lower tunnel, and then to be hauled out. This made it difficult for them in the long run, because the horses were not in the upper works, requiring the men to push the ore cars to the chute, before

dumping below. Finally, the mine made an incline up to the gravels, permitting the horses to reach the upper level to do a lot of the heavy work. Hoffman, the mining engineer from the start of the mine, then accepted a position in Siberia, and was

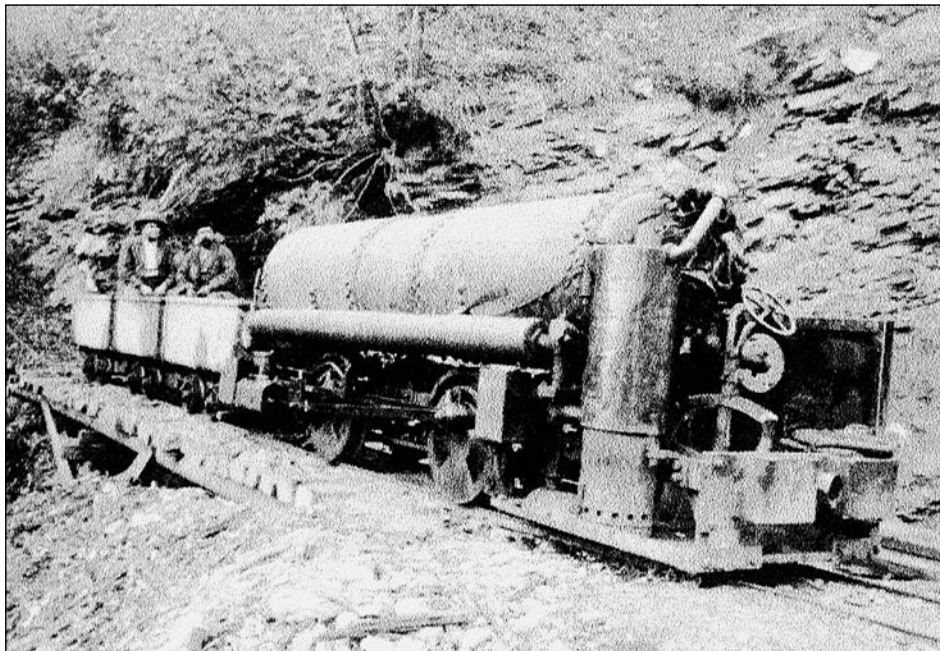
replaced by J.A. Feguson, another well-known mining engineer of the Divide.

The mine made great progress over the next ten years, developing the drifts and extending the tunnel to 11,000 feet from the portal. Gold was consistent, paying well throughout their progress. Sixty men were now employed full time. A report from December 1897 indicated they were averaging 135 ore cars of selected gravel per day. Seven horses were now being used to pull the ore cars. However, the long tram to bring the ore to the outside processing plant was getting longer and longer and this greatly increased the costs and decreased the mine productivity.

A report from January 20, 1900 brought forth the answer - one that can be visibly seen by the Divide residents today. How? Remember seeing the small, black painted railroad type engine and three ore cars on display at the front of the Memorial Hall in Foresthill? That's the actual compressor air engine that was designed, built, and put into operation inside the Red Point Mine. The engine is 15 feet long, and weighs 11,000 pounds. This became the first mine in Placer County to use compressed air for a rail transportation system. Another first for the Foresthill Divide!

There were two air compressor charging stations for the engine. This was an engineering marvel that worked very well from the beginning. Ten thousand feet of heavy pipe was used to carry the compressed air from the compressor plant to the two stations for filling the engine. It's kind of like putting gasoline into a car, except this engine needed compressed air as the fuel. The two dumping stations served that purpose, filling the engine "tank" with the pressure necessary to drive the train. The train could pull 14 ore cars, with a 1/2 ton capacity each, at a speed of 15 miles per hour. This innovation greatly speeded up the mine ore cycle process, and escalated the mine output and net profit.

By June 1902 the channel had been drifted for 3 1/2 miles, utilizing this new "horse" for carrying out the ore. Profits increased greatly, and the end of the mine seemed many years away. It was unknown how far the channel was going to go upstream, and the outlook was very promising. This intervolcanic channel was not as wide as some of the white channels, but it was wide enough and far exceeded the width of the present American River near Foresthill. The width varied from 75 feet in narrow gorges to 650 feet in some areas, with the average around 200 feet. The gravels also varied in thickness, gener-



Red Point compressed air driven train. The train is on exhibit in Foresthill, at the Memorial Hall and Park area.

ally ranging seven or eight feet in the center, with some areas as thick as 16 feet. The pay gravels were worked only for three or four feet in height, maximizing the best pay.

The Red Point had become one of the greatest underground placer mines in California. It was heralded for its innovation with the steam engine, its high grade gold, profitability, and mining techniques. It placed Foresthill on the mining maps even more dominantly than they were already. This was the place to be for under

ground drift mining.

Then the unexpected struck hard. Going upstream on the channel was the perfect direction and ideal working conditions for underground placer mining. It had a perfect grade for taking out ore and draining water, and the volcanic ceiling was very hard and stayed in place, permitting significant breasting of the channel. So what happened, causing the mine to literally close in early 1904?

Remember how the channel was found in the first place? The Mountain Gate Mine had encountered a volcanic mud flow in following the white channel downstream, stopping the work on the white channel because it had been cut away. Well, this Golden River channel now disappeared going upstream!

There are almost no records that I can presently find to explain exactly what caused the channel to be cut off. Was it cut through by another inter-volcanic channel or was there some faulting that occurred to offset the channel up, down, or sideways? This faulting, although not common for the geologic period being discussed, did occur in several places and did shift channels. The "China Wall" that many of you know up the Divide may be the missing link. Is it part of a geologic fault system that re-located the channel? I'm hoping to have that answer by the next monthly mining story.

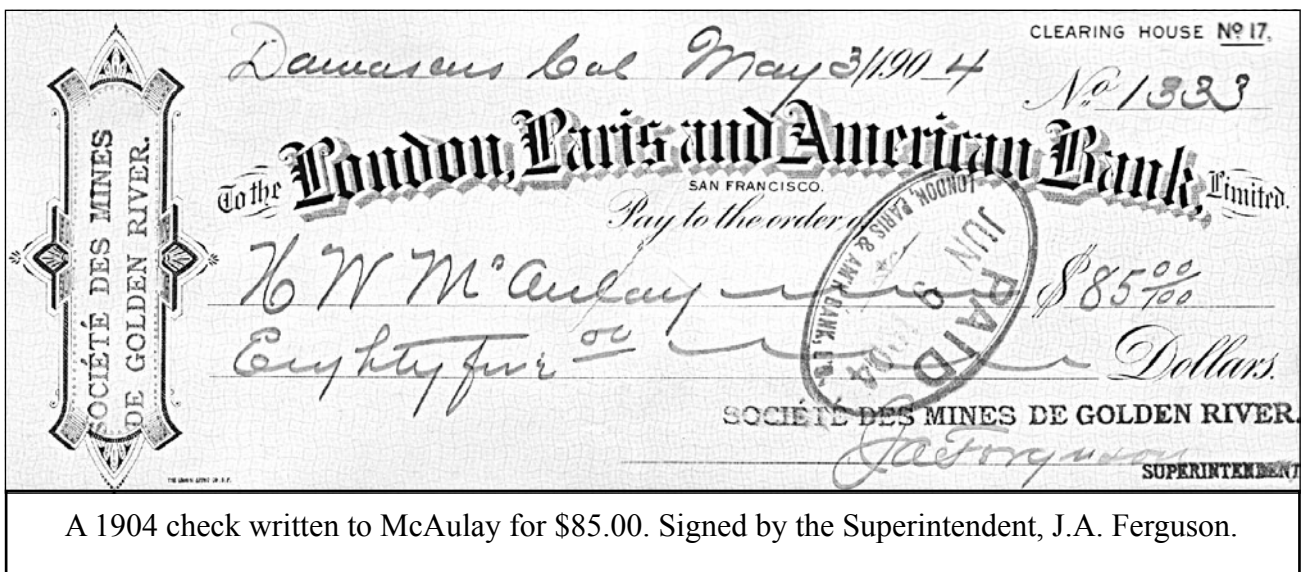
Many attempts were made to locate the "missing" channel, without any luck what so ever. It was over - unless today we have enough geologic information and financial commitment to re-locate the position of the channel and to therefore begin mining again in earnest. The potential is there - but keep in mind the channel is reported to be 1000 feet under the main Divide road!

After 1904 the mine was leased to others, who worked diligently and somewhat successfully in extracting gold from areas not worked by the French Company. Most of this new gold was found about mid-way through the tunnel, about the 10,000-foot mark. This was simply a process, though, of cleaning up some gravels missed, as we do today in some of the old mines.

If any of you have additional data about the Red Point I would sure appreciate hearing from you. I'll be doing some research over the next month to see if we can finalize the story about the lost "Red Point" channel.

That's it for now. Thanks. Don

Bibliography: Mining and Scientific Press, 16 references from 1887 - 1904; Historic Maps, ledgers, and various documents about the Red Point Mine (1890 - 1911), provided by Clarence Owen, Foresthill resident.



A 1904 check written to McAulay for \$85.00. Signed by the Superintendent, J.A. Ferguson.

UPDATE FROM DAVE MCCRACKEN ON THE SUCTION DREDGING BILL AND THE CALIFORNIA ANNUAL BUDGET RECENTLY PASSED. (Excerpts taken from Washington Miners Newsletter Nov./Dec)

I am very pleased to report that we have won another very important victory in preserving the rights of small-scale gold prospectors in California. As many of you know, this was just one more attempted cowardly sneak attack by our adversaries (there have been several during the past few years). This last attempt was trying to hide language to eliminate suction dredging in the annual budget bill!

As we stepped up our lobbying pressure, our adversaries then modified the language to eliminate or reduce some of our most important suction dredge seasons, calling this a "compromise." Then, as we stepped up our lobbying efforts even further, our Republican friends in the legislature were able to get the language completely eliminated. Just as important, while we cannot find it listed in the budget as a lone item, the Department of Fish & Game is acknowledging that the \$1 million was approved to pay for an update of the California EIR which supports our suction dredge regulations. With the EIR update finally beginning, I suspect there is a reasonable chance that the Court will reject any motions by our adversaries to intervene - and therefore allow the administrative process to resolve any real issues that might be related to suction dredging. This is a good thing!

I want to personally thank everyone who contributed to our efforts by sending in your messages as we requested. For the first time ever, we ended up with enough money in the fund to pay all the costs at the time we have won a battle.

FOR ALL THE CURRENT INFORMATION ON PENDING MINING ISSUES PICK UP YOUR CURRENT CALIFORNIA MINING JOURNAL AT PIONEER MINING.. PLEASE SUPPORT JERRY HOBBS, PUBLIC LANDS FOR PUBLIC USE, THEIR CURRENT RAFFLE AND INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE JOURNAL.

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You will receive an email and it is your option to go or not. A rating of 1-10 will be added, 10 being very difficult. The team may not always find gold, but looking for new areas to prospect. You should be in good shape as you never know where Don may take you. - Webmaster: Bill Percy, www.goldhounds.com. Meeting: Newsletters, memberships, Annie Robinson.or Kathy Percy, Goldhound Red Hat Ladies and Roving Reporter, Carol Ebbitt, Retired Club Paparazzi, Joe Cardoza. Retired Club Nurse - Barbara Cardoza, Refreshments and Avon Lady, Lee Buhler, Refreshment Manager, Ken Woolly. Director and Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Bowman and Merle Litzinger. President, Don Robinson, Helper, Annie.

GOLDHOUNDS MEETING SCHEDULE & OUTINGS FOR 2008 - PUBLIC INVITED

- Nov. 14 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm. Our Iowa Hill Project Love will go forward. Info to follow in November newsletter.
- Dec. 12 Goldhound meeting and Pot Luck. Also Iowa Hill "Project Love." Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm. PotLuck and Party. Info in November newsletter
- Dec. 19 Iowa Hill School, "Project Love" At the Iowa Hill School, 11:00 am.
- Jan. 9 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm
- Feb. 13 Goldhound meeting, 100 East St., Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall, 7-9 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Nov. 14,15,&16, 2008, Sacramento Mineral Society."66th Annual Golden Harvest of Gems" www.sacramentosocietyinfo.com.
- November 21, Friday, Sacramento State's Geology Club presents the 5th Annual Rock Auction, contact Robin Wham at 916-995-1436 or rockhugger247@yahoo.com. They are accepting donations at 6000 J. St., in Sacra.
- Nov. 22 23, 2008 Livermore Valley Lithophiles G & M club contact www.lithophiles.org or call 408-897-3060.

FOR 2009

- March 8 & 9 - Mother Lode Mineral Society's Rock & Gem Show, info www.turlockgemshow.com or 209 524-3494
- March 21 & 22 Annual Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Show. Mark your calendars so we can help out!

OTHER CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society meets 2nd Tues. monthly, Roseville Fairgrounds, Garden Room, 800 All America City Blvd., www.rockrollers.com or Box 212, Roseville, 95678 or call Florence, (916) 961-6868. email rockrollers@hotmail.com. or WWW.ROCKROLLERS.COM
- Gold Prospector Association of America, meets quarterly, for info, Jim Hutchings, 530-367-5108. (Claims) next meeting, October 18, FOR INFO WWW.GOLDPROSPECTORS.ORG OR 1-800- 551-9797.
- Sacra. Valley Detecting Buffs meet 1st Thurs. monthly, Sac. County Old SMUD Bldg. corner Elkhorn & Don Julio in No. Highlands, or call 916-987-9336 - www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com.
- United Prospectors meets every other month at outings, www.unitedprospectors.com. Info 510-733-3253. Club has claims and newsletters every 2 months. meets at outings.
- Shasta Miners, meets 3rd Friday, Happy Valley Center, Anderson, for info 530-623-4209, claims & newsletr. monthly
- Public Lands for the People, 7194 Conejo Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92404, (909) 889-3039, WWW.PLP2.ORG-
PLP continues to work on your behalf to keep public lands open. Donations are tax deductible.
- New 49'ers Prospecting Club. Box 47, Happy Camp, CA 96039, new49ers@goldgold.com, WWW.GOLDGOLD.COM
For info call 530 493-2012. Club has Claims.
- ICMJ'S PROSPECTING & MINING JOURNAL, BOX 2260, APTOS, 95001, OR WWW.ICMJ.COM,831-479-1500
- Comstock Gold Prospectors, Box 20781. Reno, NV 89515 , Club has Claims contact Reno Mining Supply.
- RoadRunner Prospectors' Club, Box 56804, Phoenix, AZ 85079, WWW.ACCESSARIZONA.COM, 602274-2521
- American Lands Access Association website:www.americlands.org CO-OP website: www.ourfieldtrips.org
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: www.cfmsinc.org
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: www.amfed.org

MEETINGS ARE HELD the 2nd Friday of each month at the Veterans Hall in Auburn, 7:00am-9:00pm, 100 East St. Take Hwy 80 to Auburn, then Hwy 49 east, at the first stop light, turn right, go one block, turn right again, Veterans Hall sits on the left, parking in the back. Public Invited!

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE AUBURN VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL IS 530-888-9861

Memo: If any club has events we will be glad to post your information. E-mail us by the 10th of each month. For Sale Items are listed free to members.

MOTHER LODE GOLDHOUNDS NEWSLETTER

November 2008



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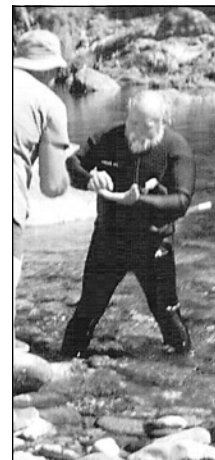
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Frank, finding nuggets on the North Fork.

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Mailing address: MOTHER LODE GOLDHOUNDS

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