

FINDERS KEEPERS

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EDITOR: CHARLENE MYERS

JUNE 2007

HOLCOMB VALLEY HISTORY

William F. Holcomb made the long trip from Indiana to the mining towns of Northern California in hopes that he would get lucky. However, things did not go as advertised, so he moved on to Los Angeles. He heard that there might be gold in Big Bear Valley, but he was not sure how to get there.

After asking around he finally found someone who knew where the valley was. Holcomb followed the directions and he arrived in the valley in 1859. "Starvation Flat" and "Poverty Flat" were where the other miners were and they were averaging \$5.00 per day, hence the name, which is know today as Stanfield Cutoff, just above Big Bear Blvd.

Holcomb and his partner, Jack Martin, were both sad that they had not found gold, so Martin returned to his family in L.A.. Holcomb decided to stay and hunt bears for food. Holcomb shot a bear, wounding it. Holcomb decided to follow the wounded bear. As he was tracking the injured animal, he passed by a quartz ledge flecked generously with gold. The word got out and the rush was on. By summer, 1860, Holcomb Valley was thick with prospectors. The mining site became known as "Last Chance Placer" and the population was estimated around 1400 people in 1861.

Soon after, the miners raised \$1,500.00 to build a wagon road from Holcomb Valley to the old toll road in Cajon Pass. Mr. Jed Van Duesen was asked to build the road. Once the road was finished, machinery and lumber were able to be brought into the valley much more easily. It took 27 days to move the first quartz mill's 8,000 pound boiler from Los Angeles to Holcomb Valley. This road is known today as "Van Duesen Canyon Road" which you can travel on in Big Bear City.

At "Last Chance Placer", the miners worked the ground at this site to within a few feet of bedrock. Dirt and gravel was moved by horse or burro to rockers, which were crude gravel washers. Rockers were built close to man-made snow ponds, which held the runoff from snow, providing water for washing the gravel. Holcomb and other miners removed an average of 3 pounds of gold daily from this area. When all of the gold from the Last Chance Placer was taken, they attempted to find the "Mother Lode" by building a shaft. However, this was abandoned when the shaft was flooded with large amounts of water. The Mother Lode or source of the gold in the area has never been found.

The gold rush in Holcomb Valley lasted about 10 years, from 1860 to 1870. Later gold was found in the east end of Holcomb Valley and a stamp mill was built at the edge of a cliff on "Gold Mountain". The Gold Mountain stamp mill ran for approximately 20 years when it was soon found that it cost more to get the gold than it was actually worth.

In 1875, Holcomb returned to the valley one last time. He could never have guessed that when he shouldered his rifle to hunt bear in 1860, he would precipitate the largest Gold Rush in Southern California.

MARK YOUR

CALENDAR ~

- *Sunday, June 10th*
7:00 AM
Metal Detecting Outing
South of Oceanside Pier

- *Del Mar Fair*
June 22nd, 2007
Saturday
April 21st - 9:00 AM

9:00 AM

- *Outing*
June 23rd & 24th
Holcomb Valley

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Well, here I am, stuck in my house with cabin fever. Sometime, before the last general meeting, I was feeling a bit under the weather. During the meeting I was pretty much down but I didn't want to show it. On Mother's Day, I was in the operating room. After that, it took me a week to get out of the hospital. I probably have a list of twenty reasons why I hate hospitals. Don't want to go into the gory details. This took about ninety percent of the steam out of me and showed me that I am not immortal. It showed me that when I am suffering from a malady, stop, rest and get some professional advice. Now, three weeks later, I am on the mend. The doctors say that I still got three to five weeks more before I am fully functional.

Harriet, bless her, she has really stayed in there helping as much as she can. She has to go in for cataract surgery on her good eye and a lens on her bad eye. Her sight has really taken a tole. Harriett and two of my daughters have been hovering over me like three hens clucking around this old rooster. The daughters taking me to and from the hospital and then they go to the markets to keep us fed. Also a son-in-law, who is a paramedic, has been taking care of my physical needs.

I missed the Franconia meteorite outing and I will not make it to the Holcomb Valley outing either. That would be too much too soon. We also have the Del Mar Fair gig and I won't be able to do that either. I really plan on going to the picnic at Dixon Lake. I figure that I can move about slow enough to stay on the mend. I just don't want to break anything. Summer is here folks and we all want to have fun. I want to be in the mix having fun with you all. You all may have heard that the Outdoor Channel in Temecula has sold the GPAA holdings. Tom Massie has bought it. There has already been some changes at the GPAA offices. None of us really know what will become of the GPAA and LDMA as of yet. I heard rumors that they may care for some volunteers to help a little. The GPAA really looks up to our organization and we could help them like us much more if we called and asked if they need any help. Just a thought.

We are four years old and we still are growing bigger and smarter. We are moving things around and adding volunteers and board members to help in our growing pains. We are finding out that we are not just a social organization wanting to just get together and have fun at general meetings, outings and events. Other people like to have words with us. People like the state and federal folks. We are working on those issues now. We are a strong bunch and we will iron out those issues and move onward and upward. By golly, we are almost up there with the GPAA folks already. Be good you all, and help one another in this organization so that we can make it the very best. When you see me, let me know if there is anything else we need to work on.

~Sourdough Chet~

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, June 10th:

Metal Detecting Outing
7:00 AM
South of Oceanside Pier

Friday, June 22nd:

Del Mar Fair
Gem and Mineral Exhibit
2 hour shifts

Saturday, July 7th:

T.S.S. Chapter Meeting and
Picnic
Dixon Lake, Escondido
11:00 AM - Meeting Starts

Gold Bags

\$6.00 per bag

T.S.S. sells bags of gold concentrates. This is a great way to practice your panning skills plus save on gas money!

Get yours today!



Dates to Remember for the Month of June -

Thursday - June 14th - U.S. Flag Day

Sunday - June 17th - Father's Day

Thursday - June 21st - Summer Solstice

OUTING INFORMATION:

Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th will find TSS at the GPAA claim known as "Holcomb Gold", number CA-59 in the GPAA claim guide.

Treasure Seekers "Official" camp site will be at the Holcomb Valley Campground. This is where the 'sign in' sheet will be located. This campground has approximately 18 spaces for tents, in-vehicle camping and RV's. There is NO water available at this site. There are some tables, fire rings and vault toilets. Fires are permitted in the fire rings only. No Adventure Pass is

needed to stay here.

Holcomb Valley Campground is located at local roads 3N16 and 3N09. Please see Lee for maps of this area and hand-outs are available at the back table.

Cost is \$12.00 per night and half price (\$6.00) for Golden Age passes. \$5.00 for a second car, so two tents with two autos could camp for \$11.00 per night.

Pets are permitted, but MUST be leashed at all times.

There is a Campground Host on the site. Sites are on a first come basis.

If you wish to camp at the mining site itself, it is for tent and in-vehicle camping only. NO open fires and you must have a fire permit to operate a propane stove (obtainable at the Ranger Station).

A potluck will be held on Saturday night. Please bring a dish to share with approximately 8 to 10 people.

Firewood is welcome for the evening fire.

GPAA reports "fine gold is plentiful here, using drywashers or high-bankers. Seasonal water".

MAY'S ATTENDANCE REPORT

Wednesday, May 2nd:

Chapter Meeting -

63 members in attendance.

3 new members

Sunday, May 13th:

Metal Detecting Outing - Tamarack Beach

11 members in attendance:

Roy Stone, Ray Wilkerson, Robert Cook, Frank Trutta, Zee Trutta, Charlene Myers, Donna Brock, Pat Allen, Evelyn Allen, Bonnie Monahan and Bill Myers.

Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th:

Franconia Meteorite Strewnfield, AZ.

23 members in attendance:

Leah Thompson, Stephen Thompson, Bonnie Monahan, Lee Crnkovic, Ray Wilkerson, Donna Brock, Sharon Crnkovic,

Lew Eakman, Charlene Myers, Bill Myers, Richard Anderson, Kenn Anderson, Andy Anderson, Frank Huberts (and his wife Gay), Blakely Sanford, Don Kuykendall, Paul Kuykendall, Jerry Duke, Brian Thomas, Diane Howe, John Howe, Frank Pangersis and Bernie Pangersis.

The next TSS Grand Prize will be:

..... a foldable sluice.

This sluice box folds down to 15 inches with a handy carrying strap and folds out to 42 inches when ready for use. It has a nine inch wide, with a flare, at the feed end.

Drawing for this will probably be held at the August Meeting. Maybe September. Depends on the amount of tickets purchased for this prize.

MAY'S MEETING WINNERS

Gold Nugget Raffle Winners: Perry Dawson, Jeff Wark and Jerry Duke

Door Prize Winner - Mike Mahr

50/50 Winner - Leah Thompson

Finds of the Month Winner - Charlie Freeman

SEARCHING THE BEACHES

BY FRANK M. TRUTTA

I have been pretty busy this month at the print shop and did not have the time to go detecting since the last club hunt at Carlsbad State Beach. Pickings were thin and with most everyone finding less than ten coins. Most people gave up and did not have their heart into hunting sparse targets. They forget the beach hunters motto - **NEVER GIVE UP.**

I gridded the dry sand for almost an hour and came up with 28 coins for \$2.88. This is probably more coins than anyone else found. Not much to brag about but you have to maximize your finds whatever the situation. If there was jewelry there and you gridded you would have recovered it, but if you don't search you will always come up short.

Hunt Smart!



GRAND PRIZE DRAWING tonight will be for the Montana Rocker! Get your tickets before the raffle drawing begins! The Montana Rocker should be great where you don't have a lot of water movement. Just put it where the water is slow moving, feed it some bank soil and wash out the gold. Great for Lytle Creek or South Fork in the San Gabriel's.

TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN DIEGO name tags

Are available for purchase (around \$5.00) from Ray Wilkerson, Vice President.

Get yours ordered today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

T.S.S. has NEW Membership Applications as of January 2007. Have you filled one out?

GPAA Membership Kits are available for purchase (cash or check) for \$86.00 per kit. These are the exact same kits that you get from GPAA - we just save you the shipping and handling costs (about \$16.00 value)

T.S.S. also sells small mining equipment and TSS Claims Guides (\$10.00 each). Please see Lee Crnkovic for purchases.

If you were born in the month of June -

Your flower is: Rose

Your stone is: Pearl, Moonstone, Agate, Opal or Alexandrite

Your meaning is: Good Health

Your colors are: Light Blue, White and Cream

Of the traditional cream colored pearls, those with pink overtones are most valuable: irregularly shaped pearls are less valuable. They scratch easily, common household chemicals, cosmetics, hair spray & perspiration can pit the surface.

MINER'S COOKBOOK CORNER

BY JUDY CARPENTER

DUTCH OVENIN' IT

Dutch ovens vary in size from 10" to 16", but 12" and 14" are most popular. After you have well seasoned your Dutch oven, the more you use it the better it becomes. Use the following formula for the number of coals/briquettes needed for cooking. Multiply the diameter of the Dutch oven X 2, and place 1/3 of the coals under the Dutch oven and 2/3 on the lid. Example: *12" oven X 2 = 24, now use 1/3 of the coals or 8 under the pot and 2/3 or 16 on the lid.* If more heat is needed then multiply the diameter by 3. If cooking time is over an hour, add 4-5 extra coals after each 20 to 30 minutes of cooking time.

Roasting in Dutch Oven - Approximate Temp. 175°

12" use 14 coals on top 10 on bottom (adjust as needed)

14" use 16 coals on top 12 on bottom

Frying in Dutch Oven - Approximate Temp. 350°

12" use 24 coals on bottom - zero on top (adjust as needed)

14" use 28 coals on bottom - zero on top

Baking in Dutch Oven - Approximate Temp. 175°

12" Oven 16 - 18 coals on top 8 - 10 on bottom (adjust as needed)

14" Oven 18 - 21 coals on top 10 - 12 on bottom

Easy Dessert

- 1 - 18 oz. Box Cake Mix (any flavor) yellow, spice, white, chocolate, lemon
- 2 - 16 oz. Canned Pie Filling or Fruit, apples, peaches, cherries
- 1 - 12 oz. can Soda, 7-Up, Sprite, Coca-Cola, A&W Root Beer, Dr. Pepper
- 2 - TBS Butter/margarine

Line Dutch oven with heavy duty foil (for easy clean up), melt 2 TBS butter in Dutch oven, pour in fruit or pie filling, add the cake mix (dry), breakup any large lumps with fingers or fork, pour in soda, and stir slightly (no need to mix well). For some tasty combinations try, Apple pie filling with Spice cake and A&W Root Beer, or Apple with white cake mix and 7-Up, Peach with yellow cake mix and Sprite. Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Soda Pop Chicken

8 Boneless, skinless chicken breast or 10-12 boneless thighs

1 - 12 oz. can soda pop (Coke, Pepsi, Root Beer, 7 Up)

1 ½ cups Catsup 2 - 3 cloves garlic, minced

1 - TBS Onion Powder 2 - TBS Chili Powder

Cooking Oil

Arrange chicken in oiled 12" Dutch oven. In a large bowl mix remaining ingredients and stir well. Spoon sauce over chicken. Cover and bake 60 to 75 minutes or until chicken is done. Use 8 - 10 briquettes on bottom and 14 - 16 on top. Baste chicken with pan juices every 15 to 20 minutes. Serves 8 to 10

MEMBER'S PHOTO'S:

MAY CHAPTER MEETING



MEMBER'S PHOTO'S:

MAY METAL DETECTING



MEMBER'S PHOTO'S:

FRANCONIA METEORITE OUTING



SUMMER TIME PESTS -

AS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS

Summer time is here and so are those flying pesky pests. Be them bees, yellow jackets, gnats, flies or ants!

Here are some suggested ways to get these pests away from you and your camp.

YELLOW JACKETS:

There is nothing like the experience of biting down into a delicious sandwich and finding out that a Yellow Jacket has beaten you to the first bite. There is nothing like taking a drink of your soda and finding a stinging pest is swimming down your throat and is looking for a place to leave its stinger.

Now if you don't mind sending them to the bee hive in the sky, here is a neat little system to rid your camping area of those pests. Take an old extra gold pan, or something similar, fill it with some water to about a half inch of the top. Add a little dish washing soap to the water. Stir vigorously to mix.

Find a piece of firewood or flat board, a little bit longer than the width of your pan. About in the middle of the board tie a piece of meat, fish or fruit. Turn this board upside down and make sure that when placed on the pan, that the "bait" doesn't touch the water. Leave at least a half inch between the water and bait. Place the pan where there seems to be more Yellow Jacket activity (away from where you are!). While these pests are feeding, they will no doubt fall or touch the detergent water and will surely leave you alone.

ANTS, MOSQUITOES, BEES AND FLIES:

BOUNCE, the dryer sheet, will help rid of these pests. For ants, lay a sheet near them and it will chase them away. By hanging a sheet or two on you or your tent or vehicle, it will repel the mosquitoes, bees and flies.

POWDERED CLEANSER, white color, sprinkled around the tent, tires or any other point of contact with the ground will prevent the creepy crawly pests from entering.

DILUTED BLEACH WATER in a sprayer. Just aim and shoot at whatever is flying around you. Just watch out not to hit your clothes, food or tent or vehicle!

SMOLDERING BURLAP. Take old pieces of burlap, light them and then let them smolder. The smoke and smell of burlap will keep all flying pests at bay.

HAIRSPRAY, a cheap brand, will work every time. Just aim and shoot and the hairspray causes their wings to stiffen and they can no longer fly. Make sure you are aiming upwind from yourself.

TOILET BOWL CLEANER TABLETS, the white chalky kind. Crush one or two tablets and add water (you have just made "home-brewed" chlorine water. Bees HATE IT! Just spray the stuff upwind of any would be swarm and watch them scatter. By making it yourself, it's a gazillion times stronger than the junk in the Clorox bottle.

BEE SWARMS:

Bee swarms - quite a few of us have lived through one or two. Not fun. Bees will find the nearest water source to them within a 5 to 10 mile radius. They attack your ice chests, your water containers, your food supplies, your vehicle, your tent, your pets food and water dishes. They get under your eye glasses, in your ears, in your throat. Any where water (moisture) can be found or even the coolness of the water. If you find yourself in this situation, get in your vehicle (windows up), forget your equipment until night fall. They become active just after sunup and will go back to their hive(s) come dusk. At this time, it is a good idea to pack up your camp and get the heck out of dodge!

When you get home, you should try to call the county office (of the county that you were in) and advise them of the location of the attack and/or the location of the bee hive itself, if you were brave enough to locate it.

BEE SAFE.**BEE SMART.****BEE CAREFUL.**

Page Reserved for Ad's

COLUMBIA METAL DETECTORS

www.columbiametaldetectors.com

Your one stop prospecting store

Locally owned and operated by Frank Trutta

Member of Treasure Seekers of San Diego

760 East Valley Parkway

Escondido, CA. 92025

760-743-8516

SHEET METAL MINING

www.sheetmetalmining.com

Custom made gold recovery items

Locally owned and operated by Al Freeman

Member of Treasure Seekers of San Diego

Encinitas, CA.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR MEMBERS:

Wanted -

German WWII Relics

Badges, Medals, Edged Weapons, Pistols, Helmets, Flags

Private Collector - Bill Myers 760-500-2266

Got something to sell?

Give the information to Charlene Myers for posting!

The ad's are FREE !

Treasure Seekers of San Diego welcomes the opportunity for it's members to run free ad's in the newsletter.

This is just a reminder that Treasure Seekers of San Diego does not endorse or guarantee any product sold or purchased through these ads.

That is strictly the buyers and sellers responsibility.

GOLD BATHTUB WORTH NEARLY \$1M STOLEN

TOKYO (AP) - A glittering bathtub made of gold worth nearly \$1 Million has been stolen from a resort hotel, an official said Wednesday.

A worker at Kominato Hotel Mikazuki in Kamogawa, south of Tokyo, notified police that the fancy tub was missing from the hotel's guest bathroom on the 10th floor, according to a local police official who only gave his surname, Ogawa.

The round tub, worth \$987,000. is made of 18-karat gold and weighs 176 pounds.

We have no witness information and there are no video cameras, Ogawa said. We have no idea who took it, the official said.

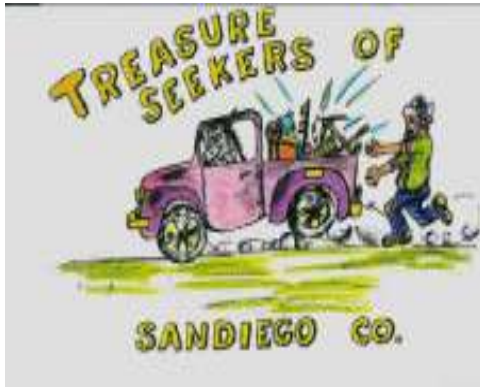
OUR NEW STORAGE UNIT & EQUIPMENT FOR USE

Treasure Seekers of San Diego is now renting a storage unit at Diablo Mini Storage in Escondido. In this storage unit is all of the club's belongings, tables, panning tubs, sign, canopy, magnetic roller, gold pans, all the goodies that the club uses at it's meetings, demonstrations and at our claims. There is also the donated prospecting equipment that was given to the club just recently. They are:

- 4 inch Dredge with 2 motors with pumps, snorkeling equipment and 5 minute reserve tank all with foot valves and hoses.
- Keene Highbanker with foot valve, pump hose and a Honda motor with pump.
- Keene Drywasher (151) with motor and hoses.
- And many other numerous small prospecting items.

If a member wishes to choose to borrow an item, they can know contact Kent Donalson, the Equipment Manager, or Chester, our President. (both contact numbers on last page of the newsletter) They will meet the member over at the storage facility and have them fill out a informational sheet regarding the borrowing of such equipment.

T.S.S. would like to see the members use these items and wish them the best of luck with the hunt!



TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN
DIEGO COUNTY

TREASURE SEEKERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

MISSION STATEMENT:

Treasure Seekers Of San Diego County (T.S.S.) was officially organized on May 21, 2003 when the election of officers was held. We are a GPAA chapter. Non GPAA members may attend meetings and participate in the raffle, but are not eligible to vote, hold office, be on the claims committee, or utilize GPAA claims. The purpose of this organization is to provide an environment to increase public awareness, with education and training, of locating, identification and legal removal of minerals, caches and treasures while keeping in mind the preservation of the environment and wild habitat.

Meetings are held at the Joslyn Senior Center

210 Park Avenue, Escondido.

On the first Wednesday of each month, 6:30—9:00 PM.

Board Members:

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