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The Prospector

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November, 2013

Chapter Meeting:

November, 17th 2013

At the
Milwaukie, Oregon
Grange Hall
12015 S.E. 22nd

Meeting Begins at
--- 1:30 ---

Dates to Remember...



November 2013

Equipment Demo's
T-Shirts & Sweatshirts
Buy yours at the next
Meeting.

Our next meeting:

Remember at every Chapter Meeting we have the Food drive- Every 2 cans you bring in gets you 1 ticket for the Raffle. Upto 5 tickets total.



From the President's Desk

Welcome to the 3 new people from our meeting last month. I hope to see all of you this month.

At your November we will have elections for President, Treasure and all six Board Members at Large. The three Board members at Large that get the most votes will have a two year term and the other three will have a one year term. Next year the three Board Members at Large that are on a one year term will be up for a two year term. Bob Burns will be running the election as Vice President and acting Sergeant At Arms.

For the new members when you have signed in three times at our meeting or combination of meetings and Outings you are a Voting Member and will be able to vote.

On a sad note Jackie Parsons lost her battle with cancer. For those of you that didn't know her she is Chris Parsons mother and Penny Parsons mother-in-law. Chris lost his battle with cancer several years ago. Chris and Penny are two of the founders of our Association/GPAA Chapter. There will be a Celebration of Life for Jackie just before our November meeting so if you would like to attend please contact either Penny of me for details.

Sincerely,

Richard Ruth

HISTORY OF THE MONTH

THE BOISE BASIN

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BOISE BASIN HISTORICAL SUMMARY

It was with the 1862 gold rush to Boise Basin that the development of the State of Idaho began. The Basin story is a fascination one, well deserving of its place in history. This brief summary only highlights key points of the area's history.

The rush was on. Originally, people traveled by steamer up the Columbia River to Umatilla, departing from Umatilla by stage lines, and finally journeying by pack-train to the Boise Basin. Difficult winters and shortages of food made life treacherous. One year a food riot occurred because the spring supplies from Walla Walla had not arrived. The Basin's population swelled to 25,000. The mining proved extensive and the gold was evenly distributed throughout the Basin. Many claimed it was the "best mining district we ever saw". The mining laws were considered fair and liberal. On February 4, 1864 Boise County was established. This same year wagon roads brought the wagon trains, hauled by four, six, eight, or even twelve horses or mules. The saw mill ran continuously with rough lumber building up cities like magic.

In 1863 Idaho City had grown to 6000 people and had 250 places of business. Idaho City assumed the notoriety as being the best mining camp in the Basin and the general rendezvous of miners, speculators, and gamblers. There was plenty of amusement. Streets were thronged with wagons, horses, mule, and cattle. Idaho City also was favored by its never failing water supply.

The basin attracted families as it offered special appeal to those seeking homes. More children and women were in evidence here than in most other mining camps. Two early schools were in operations well as a lending library. The Basin also believed in and appreciated good government.

The height of the boom lasted from 1863 to 1866. By 1867 many sold out to Chinese miners who were able, through industrious work, to make the mines pay; the 1870 Census lists 1700 Chinese. The rich gold fields were considered "panned out" as most readily worked streams had been worked. Another major factor in the decline was the high loss caused by destructive fires. Fires hit Idaho City in 1865, 1867, 1868 and 1871.

Mining techniques changed from sluicing to hydraulics, carving out vast hillsides. Quartz mining prospered in the 1870s with a number of stamp mills in operation. Dredge mining began in 1898 and continued till the 1950's. Unfortunately, much of the lower lying land in the Basin has been disfigured by dredging. Also, camps like Buena Vista located across Elk Creek from Idaho City disappeared through dredging. Fires have also continued their rampage, wiping out Quartzberg in 1931.

Any holiday was a time of special festivity in the Basin. Fourth of July was celebrated with picnics and parades characterized by flags, mottos, banners, and bands. Saint Patrick's Day brought supper and speeches, especially in Pioneer City which was chiefly Irish and referred to as New Dublin. Christmas programs were also festive events.

(Excerpts from Boise Basin Visitor & Tourism Development Plan)

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FABULOUS GOLD COUNTRY

Inspired by an Indian's story of gold that could be scooped up by the handful; a party of prospectors led by George Grimes discovered the fabulously rich area known for the past Century as the Boise Basin in 1862. Located on Grimes Pass is the monument of George Grimes.

Gold was there. So were hardships, heartache and tragedy. Grimes was killed within days of the discovery. The first miners staked large and extensive claims and their first settlement became known as "Hog-em", later changed to Pioneer City and now Pioneerville.

Rivalry between the miners was common, and when a party of prospectors ventured over the divide onto Elk Creek and discovered even richer gold deposits, they kept their find a secret by telling a tale of being chased by huge bears. The gulch they discovered, near the end of Idaho City's Main Street even today carries the name of "Bear Run"

The \$5,000 in gold which these first miners carried out to civilization started one of the greatest gold rushes the world has ever seen....the richest strike in America. It is estimated that more than \$250,000,000 was taken from this area in the two decades following its discovery....greater than the California 49er and of the Klondike in Alaska. It is reported that Gold from the Boise Basin helped to strengthen the Union treasury during the most crucial days of the Civil War, perhaps preserving the United States.

Thousands upon thousands of miners rushed pell-mell into the Boise Basin. Towns sprang up everywhere. There were Beaver, Banner, Granite, Forrest and Summit cities.... Buena Vista, Eureka, Pomona and Boston.....Pioneerville, Placerville, Centerville and Quartsbury, Clarksville, Graham and Idaho City. Some have vanished completely with even their exact location in doubt....many lie in decaying ruin while others are struggling to preserve the way of life that make the Boise Basin famous.

But of all the communities, Idaho City was said to have been the bawdiest and lustiest of the Boise Basin's offspring. A rip-roaring mining town, it became the hub of territorial commerce and almost overnight became the largest metropolis in the Idaho Territory, boasting a population in excess of ten thousand for more than two decades.

Idaho City was the birthplace of the "Vigilante" movement that later swept like wildfire throughout the west. Here it is said the Rev. Charles Kingsley, whose home still stands on Wall Street, instigated the self-styled law of the "Vigilantes" that brought a semblance of law and order to the West.

Two major fires have swept the town. In 1865 and again in 1867, fire destroyed over 300 buildings with losses estimated at over a million dollars. However, some of the best examples of early day brick work and wooden architecture still exist in Idaho City. Many buildings erected in the 1860's and costing between \$15,000 and \$30,000 are still standing.

Idaho City was one of the leading cities between Denver and the Pacific Coast, attracting such top entertainment as the Dan Rice Circus (world's largest at the time) and the nation's top stage and opera stars who played at the community's five theaters.

Life was not all culture in the Basin's early days. Other entertainment attracted a rougher element as attested by one account which appeared in the Idaho World in "Several parties were found in the streets on Tuesday morning. Some with fractured skulls; some with bunged eyes and swollen faces, indicating very clearly that there had been a muss somewhere during the night. Blood was freely sprinkled about the town on woodpiles and sidewalks. As the puddles of blood were distributed over a large district, it was impossible to locate the fight."

(Excerpts from Idaho city historical foundation welcome, visitor's pamphlet)

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GRANDJEAN

Mr. Grandjean was the second Forest Supervisor on the Sawtooth Forest Reserve in January 1907. He became Forest Supervisor of the Sawtooth National Forest (West) in February, 1908, when the Forest was split into two divisions, East and West. From that date until July, 1908, he remained on this assignment, except during the month of May when he was detailed as District (Regional) Inspector.

His name is perpetuated in Grandjean Peak and Grandjean Creek, at the head of the South Fork of the Payette River, and in the old Grandjean Ranger Station, now a part of the Sawtooth Lodge.

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GOLD RUSH DAYS OF IDAHO CITY

Gold was the principle factor in the establishment of many present day towns including Idaho City, Idaho also known as the Boise Basin. During the Civil War the Basin was the scene of the richest gold rush in American history. It is said to have produced more gold than all of Alaska.

An Indian's story of the yellow metal led a party of prospectors into the Boise Basin in the summer of 1862. George Grimes, Moses Splawn and ten other miners were the first to come into the area. Shortly after their arrival, Grimes was killed by Indians. The remainder of the party returned to Walls to get reinforcements against other Indian attacks and to obtain winter provisions. Later that same year Captain Bledsoe took a party into Placerville. A few days later Captain Jeff Standifer set up a camp at Idaho City.

J. Marian More (sometimes spelled Moore) was one of the early miners who came to the Boise Basin. He became very wealthy from his prospecting, owning several mines around Idaho City. Soon he began buying mines in the Silver City area. More was involved in a mine dispute in Silver City which resulted in several killings. Finally, a meeting was held, differences settled, and papers were signed to seal the bargains. As More was preparing to return to Idaho City, he was shot and killed. His body was taken to Idaho City for burial in Boot Hill. Hundreds of people turned out for the largest Masonic funeral ever held in that area.

There was a rapid influx of people into the Boise Basin country following the discovery of gold on Grimes Creek. The majority of people were miners and prospectors whose main interest was to acquire the mineral wealth from the streams and soils of the area. Merchants, packers, lawyers, ranchers, and preachers also moved into the Basin.

Idaho City was first called Bannock or West Bannock. There was a town in Montana also called Bannock, so the Idaho legislature changed the name of the Idaho town to Idaho City. By the middle of September, 1863, Idaho City had a population of 6,267 (360 women, 224 children). At that time it was the largest city in the Northwest. Placerville previously had been the most populous. Boise City had a population of nearly 1,000.

With the rush to the Basin mines, there was a great need for materials to build houses and business establishments. Freight charges were high as there were no wagon roads made until the late summer of 1864. Lumber was in great demand with sawyers sometimes working night and day. B. L. Warriner owned one of the first sawmills, located on Grimes Creek in 1862. This was a very crude affair, resembling the present day buzz saw. Power was supplied by an old steam engine or mill stream. Lumber was sold at \$100 to \$200 per thousand board feet.

There were different methods used to take the yellow metal from the creek beds and gulches in Boise Basin. The first type was placer mining or panning. The tools a miner needed were a pick, shovel, and pan. The pan was a sheet of iron or tin, which looked like a bread pan, and was often used for this purpose. Placer mining was a rather simple operation. First, the prospector would scoop up a pan of pebbles from the bed of a stream and fill the pan with water. By shaking the pan and getting rid of some of the water and pebbles, he eventually removed everything from the pan except the gold; which had sunk to the bottom, since it was heavier than the rest. Little flakes of gold dust, called colors, could be uncovered, and sometimes lumps or nuggets were found. The rocker was also used to placer for gold. It resembled a baby's cradle with the footboard knocked out. Instead of slats, there was a piece of sheet iron punched full of holes. The rocker was put next to the stream, and one man threw shovelfuls of dirt on the iron sheet while another man poured water over it and rocked the machine back and forth. The heavy gold fell through the holes and lodged behind cleats fastened to the bottom of the rocker.

Sluice boxes were even more effective in mining. Several boxes, ten to twelve feet long and a foot wide were made and set end to end. Dirt was dumped in to the boxes, then strong currents of water from the ditch wee run through them. Again the gold sank and was held by cleats.

Gold Hill, just north of Idaho City, was mined hydraulically. This method is similar to sluice box mining. The miner shot powerful streams of water at the hillside until it caved in. Then the dirt was run through a string of sluice boxes. Miners worked around the clock at the Gold Hill Mines, with huge bonfires built around the area to see by. Wages were \$6.00 a day and \$7.00 a night.

The richest claim in the Idaho City area in 1863 was owned by seven men. It contained 2,000 square feet and ran to the edge of town. Bedrock averaged one dollar per pan and as high as \$9.25. Mining was done right in town. Lawsuits were numerous when houses began collapsing after being undermined. Montgomery Street panned at \$16.00 a pan.

Idaho City had two hundred merchants in 1864 and was still growing. Two new theaters were finished for the pleasure of the miners. Gambling, billiards, drinking and dancing were favorite pastimes. Most miners wore flannel shirts, a slouched hat, a large bandanna tied around their necks, pantaloons tucked into heavy hobnailed boots, and six-shooters on their hips.

In the winter of 1865, Idaho City was snowed in with seven feet of snow. Pack trains were unable to reach the town for several weeks. A bread famine occurred and flour prices went to fifty cents a pound, but none was available in the town. The few men who had flour stashed away were in danger of being mobbed. In April, the first pack train arrived with provisions. There was a mad rush to buy flour and other supplies. Days later another pack train arrived and soon flour prices were down to twenty-five cents a pound.

In a report by J. A. Chittenden, Superintendent of Public Instruction, dated December 1, 1865, there were four schools in Boise County with six hundred and two students between the ages of four and twenty-one.

In 1863, Father A. Z. Poulin, Silver City, built the first Catholic Church in Idaho proper at Idaho City. The church and the convent next door were saved from the fire in 1865 by men who carried wet sacks onto the roof. The buildings were burned in the 1867 fire, however, and the present building was built shortly thereafter.

The most loved preacher of early times was Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle. He was a missionary Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church for Montana, Utah, and Idaho. In 1866, he began his work in Idaho, holding services wherever he could find a place. It was not uncommon to see gold dust, as well as coins and greenbacks, in the collection plate.

The second paper published in the Idaho Territory was a nonpartisan paper. The paper was started in 1863. It was later sold and the new owner changed the name from the Boise News to the Idaho World. The paper was published every Saturday evening and sold for fifty cents a copy. Papers from California arrived two weeks after publication and sold anywhere from one dollar to two dollars and fifty cents a copy.

On the night of May 18, 1865, disaster struck Idaho City. A fire started about nine that evening near the center of town. The fire is believed to have started in the upper story of a dance hall. Since everything was made of pine and full of pitch, the fire moved swiftly. The fire lasted about three hours and lit up the sky for miles around. Only a few businesses were left untouched by the flames and smoke. Many men who had been considered wealthy were left penniless in a very short time. Some merchants had underground cellars which enabled them to salvage a few items. Miners from all over the Basin came running into town when they saw the sky lighted by the fire. Looters took what they could carry from stores before they were engulfed in flames. Some people saw nothing wrong with this since no one was hurt. They thought it was better to let someone use what they could rather than let everything go up in smoke, and they surely could not sort things out to the rightful owners later. One merchant, Mr. Craft, who had been holding several citizens' gold bags for safe keeping, kept a cool head when he was the fire. He engaged George Dwight to take all the gold away from the town until the next day. Shortly after George had gone, the depositors approached Mr. Craft, demanding their money. Mr. Craft told them that all of the gold was safe and that it would be available the next day. George meanwhile, had carried the one hundred pounds of gold bags to a hill and sat down to watch the fire. The next day he returned the bags to Mr. Craft, who distributed them to the rightful owners.

Everyone went to work to rebuild the town, and by July, 1865, it was nearly completed. May, 1867 another fire swept through the town but was not as disastrous as the first.

Stealing horses, robbing stages, and killing were common around the Boise Basin as bands of desperadoes came into the gold camps. Vigilante Committees were formed who tried criminals in secret, and later arrested them. Their punishment was usually hanging. Protection of law could not be offered from far away Olympia, Washington, so Idaho Territory was separated. The Governor of Washington assigned William Noble, Frank More, and John C. Smith as commissioners of Boise County and instructed them to establish the County seat at Idaho City in 1863. The first county officers besides the

commissioners were Sheriff, Sumner Pinkham; Probate Judge Daniel McLaughlin; Auditor, W. R. Underwood; Treasurer, Charles Vajin; and Assessor George Goodman.

A famous political battle occurred in Idaho City in June, 1870. Congressman E. E. Holbrook and a gambler named Douglas met about eight one evening at the corner of Wall and Main Street. Angry words were passed between them, and then both men drew their guns. Eleven shots were fired. Holbrook was taken to his law office with several bullet holes in his abdomen. The next morning he was dead. Douglas vanished in the dark of night. There were discrepancies in the account of who fired the first shot, but everyone agreed that the firing continued until both guns were empty.

Old Mose Kempner was a raw hider from the Banner Mine. He seemed to have funds, but was often broke, and his notes of hand floated about. Being once sued, a trial was held in the old courthouse, and Mose's note was shown around, passing from hand to hand and finally into the hands of Mose himself, who promptly shoved it in his mouth, chewed it up with his wad of cut plug, and spat it down between the boards in the courtroom floor. The note being lost, the debt went unproved. Mose escaped judgment, and for twenty years maintained absolute silence, confessing only in his old age his clandestine mastication in the judicial presence.

The present courthouse was first used for businesses. The iron folding doors were made in San Francisco and shipped up the Columbia River then carried by ox and horse teams into Idaho City. It was, no doubt a difficult and expensive task. Each door weighed half a ton. The doors were used for fire protection more than against thieves. The original courthouse was two blocks from the present one. It was made of rough lumber with gaping holes in the floor.

The courthouse was a popular place in the old days and had many interesting cases. The desk that is now in the courtroom could tell many tales. In the drawer, written in pencil and still legible, is this inscription by Judge Stewart, "George H. Stewart, District Judge, sentenced Herman St. Clair to be hung at this desk November 20, 1897." With the signatures, "J. A. Lippincott, Sheriff and C. B. Mosher, Deputy." Herman St. Clair was found guilty of murder, in the first degree, of John Decker. The murder was committed on October 21, 1897. St. Clair was first sentenced to be hung by the neck until dead on January 14, 1898, between the hours of nine a.m. and three p.m. However, he received a stay of execution from the Supreme Court. He tried to escape from the Idaho City jail on April 27, 1898, but was unsuccessful. He was finally hung on June 24, 1898.

Four thousand Chinamen were in the Idaho Territory from 1869 to 1875. They were employed mostly as laundrymen, cooks, house servants, gardeners, and miners. They were good workers and always paid their debts. The white men cheated, tormented, and took advantage of the Chinese whenever possible. One Chinaman in Idaho City was a skilled goldsmith. He made beautiful finger rings and was noted for his engraving. The Chinese miners banded together to work harder for their profits, but they were happy to makes two or three dollars a day. Pon Yam was a prominent Chinese businessman. His store building is located on the corner of Montgomery Street and Commercial Street. Pon Yam had a wife and sons in Canton, a pretty black-haired girl in Idaho City, and owned a two or three karat diamond, the largest diamond in the gold camp. The Chinese never fought with the white man, but they had many disagreements with their countrymen.

The Chinese saved their money so their remains could be sent back to China when they died. Some Chinese were not wealthy enough to have their remains sent back to the homeland; therefore, they were left in Boot Hill. Chinese funerals were gala affairs. Large crowds of people would walk to the cemetery, dropping colored paper and chanting occasionally.

The Chinese Joss House or Temple was an interesting place. During feast days the doors were always left open for those who came to worship or make an offering. On days of worship, each Chinese company would parade through the streets of Idaho City to the Joss House with gongs and cymbals clanging. Some of the companies carried banners, and others carried Chinese food delicacies. A roast pig, which was carried on a long pole between two men, was the main offering. These offering were spread before the Joss with much ceremony and bowing. When the ceremony was over, the companies would march back to their place of business or residence. These events along with Chinese New Year celebration, Chinese Mason Day and many others were colorful events for the white citizen to watch.

Building a new community in the nineteenth century was a task full of hardships and disappointments. It took a great deal of courage and determination to withstand all the trials of life one hundred years ago. These pioneers are to be long remembered for their help in developing the Boise Basin Area.

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HISTORIC IDAHO CITY

In 1864 it was a nine hour stage coach ride from Idaho City to Boise City. The uphill trip coming back took an hour longer, and there were no guarantees at all after the snow fell.

The first gold in the Boise Basin was discovered near Centerville on August 2, 1862. Soon settlements had sprung up all through the Boise Basin, in December of 1862 Bannock City was founded.

Bannock City was located in the most rugged, remote region of Washington Territory which was comprised of modern Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. In March of 1863 President Lincoln established Idaho Territory, and in 1864 Bannock City was renamed Idaho City. As many as 20,000 miners came to Idaho City, making it the largest city between St. Louis and San Francisco. The first fire swept through the town on May 18, 1865 and destroyed 80% of the town in two hours. Idaho City was quickly rebuilt. Exactly two years and a day later fire struck again, but this time residents were ready and more buildings were saved. Some of those buildings still stand today.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church 1867

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is the oldest built for Euro-Americans in Idaho. The fire of 1865, St Joseph's survived because of an estimated one hundred people rushed to keep the flames from its roof. It was not so lucky when the second fire hit in May of 1867. The building standing today was completed in November that same year and the few vestments and altar pieces rescued from the fire are still inside.

Boise Basin Museum 1867

The Boise Basin Museum was originally the Post Office. It took Postmaster James Pinney only twenty-nine days to build the Montgomery Street post office after the second great fire in Idaho City destroyed the first one on Main Street. Pinney lived in part of the building and in addition to stamps; he sold books, musical instruments, pistols, magazines, knives and toys from the post office side. Pinney also operated a circulating library.

After Pinney resigned as postmaster in 1872, the building housed a meat market and later the Idaho World newspaper. It remained a post office until 1910.

In 1953 the building was deeded to the city for \$10 and other valuable considerations." During the Gold Rush Days in June 1958, it was opened to the public as a museum.

Masonic Temple 1865

This is the home of Lodge #1 of Idaho's Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. After the original temple was destroyed in the town's first great fire in 1865, James Pinney a Mason himself received permission to build the current structure. This two-story frame building utilized rough-sawn board and batten that has been allowed to weather naturally. The north side still has its original clapboard siding. The Lodge Bible and Charter, which were saved from the 1865 fire, are still kept inside with other historic and symbolic items. Idaho Lodge #1 moved its meetings to Boise in the 1920's, but its occasional use of the building makes the structure the oldest Masonic Temple this side of the Mississippi River still in use.

Idaho Territorial Prison 1864

This hand-hewn prison was originally erected above Elk Creek, north of Idaho City. It had fourteen cells and hand-wrought nails, chains, doors lifts, and window irons were used to discourage escape. This rough structure was used as a territorial prison until the 1870's. The jail's original building site was undermined by placer mines and the structure fell into Elk Creek.

It has been moved at least four times before coming to rest in its present location.

Idaho City Hotel 1929

The Smith Hotel and Boarding House opened for business in 1930. Mrs. Mary E. Smith catered mostly to logging crews. When the building was purchased and renovated in 1974, it was determined that many of the timbers are older than 1929, confirming the legend that part of the structure may have come from an old hotel in Placerville.

I.O.O.F. Hall 1875

Pioneer Lodge N. 1, the oldest Odd Fellows Lodge in Idaho. Since the original hall burned to the ground this one was built on the hill in the hope of protecting it from fire. The upper floor was used for lodge meetings and the ground floor for social gatherings. The structure uses wood pegs and square nails, with three steel tie rods at both the first and second floor ceiling levels.

Pon Yam House 1867

This is the only remaining building from Idaho City's Chinese population, which the 1870 census reported at 1,751 – more than 45% of the total. Nearly all the Chinese in Idaho City were from the Canton vicinity of China.

Pon Yam was a successful businessman and a respected leader in the community. It was reported he owned the largest diamond in the mining camp, and he was often called upon to settle disputes among the Chinese tongs. From this building he sold herbs and other Chinese products.

Boise Basin Mercantile 1867, 1868, 1869

Miners need supplies and groceries like anyone else, and they could find almost anything they needed at the "Universal Store," or the local mercantile.

The building is really three separate buildings, constructed in a three-year sequence after the fire of 1867 substantially damaged the original structure. Every effort was employed to guard against fire damage: brick façade, iron doors and windows, and dirt packed into the attic. Fire has never invaded this building leaving Idaho City with the oldest mercantile in Idaho.

Idaho World 1867

The Idaho World is the oldest newspaper in Idaho still in publication. It was founded as the Boise News in September 1863 by pioneer printers Joseph and Thomas Butler.

A Chinese store called "Man Wo Corner" occupied this spot just before Heman and Charles Jones, owners of the paper, converted it to their newspaper office in 1883. Like the Mercantile across the street, it was built of local low-fire brick and mortared with local clay. All the windows and doors were protected with iron shutters, and the attic was filled with dirt so that if the roof burned the building might be spared. Fire was ever the threat in the gold camps. Although the building has been used for several business endeavors, it was the newspaper office for most of its existence. It is currently the home of historical printing equipment.

Miner's Exchange 1865

Still referred to by its last saloon name, the Miner's Exchange has played an active role in the history of Idaho City. It acquired its name from the practice of exchanging gold dust for legal tender, or a good drink. The saloon was the place where miners found entertainment as distraction from the daily work at their claims.

This is one of the oldest buildings in Idaho, having survived the fire of 1867. It is an early example of the brick construction that was prevalent in northwest mining camps. Again, earth in the attic and iron shutters was efforts to protect the structure.

Today Boise County offices occupy this building. The original bar and back bar has become the desk for the County Commissioners meetings.

Boise County Courthouse 1871

This building was begun in July of 1871 and completed three months later. This was no small task considering the degree of fire protection employed. The great iron folding doors, each weighing half a ton, were made in San Francisco, barged up the Columbia River, and carried overland by horse and ox teams. Three feet of packed earth filled the attic space, once estimated to weight about 200 tons. Local clay bricks and mortar finished the walls.

It began as a general store, then a hardware and trinket shop, and then became the Orchard Hotel. The original courthouse on Montgomery Street was deteriorating, and during Mose Kempner's trial it became obvious there was need for a new one. It had been built with enough room between the floorboards to accommodate tobacco chewers, but Kempner reportedly chewed up and spit out a note that was being passed around as evidence against him. Hence the county bought the Orchard Hotel in 1909. The building's interior has been remodeled to replicate those earlier days and court is still in session several days a week.

Schoolhouse 1891

This two-story frame building served as a schoolhouse for seventy years. In June of 1891, the first school house was torn down and construction of this one began. The skeleton was finished in July, but so were the funds. Determined to open the new doors for the fall school term, the three school trustees, John Kennaly, Charles Mann, and O. A. Duquette, each volunteered three days' work a week. The community had a dance which lasted until 4:00 a.m. and raised \$137.95. Everybody's efforts paid off, and the building was completed in late September, 1891. Grades one through four were taught downstairs and five through eight on the top level.

In a report from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, dated 1865, there were four schools in Boise County with 605 students between the ages of four and twenty-one. When the present Basin School was constructed in 1963, this building became Idaho City's City Hall.

Pioneer Cemetery

Idaho City has been using this cemetery since 1863. Approximately 200 grave markers still stand and many of those have been repaired, restored, and maintained by the Idaho City Historical Foundation. It is estimated that 2,000 graves are scattered through the forty timbered acres. Of the first 200 graves, only 28 were for people who died of natural causes.

(Excerpts from Bricks & Boardwalks by the Idaho City Historical Foundation)

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History of Horseshoe Bend

Horseshoe Bend derives its name from its location. A lower part of the city lies on a fertile horseshoe shaped peninsula cut by the scenic Payette River. The Boise National Forest and private rangeland surround the city.

In 1862 prospectors discovered large quantities of placer gold at Grimes Pass. So named by the Grimes and Splawn parties, it is 35 miles east of Horseshoe Bend in the Boise Basin where Grimes was killed by Native Americans while prospecting and was buried at the summit. This led to a gold rush that within the next year brought 16,000 fortune seekers into the Basin.

Some of the prospectors came through present day Horseshoe Bend in route to the Basin that lay an additional 20 miles east. At that time, the town was a way station between the Boise Basin mines and the Dalles, Oregon, where ships came up the Columbia River from the seacoast.

Some found that food prices paid by the miners were so high that there was more profit in producing and selling fresh food than mining.

Soon settlers began establishing homesteads in the arable parts of the region where they could divert streams for irrigation. They began raising farm animals and growing crops for sale to the miners.

Because of the Boise Basin's cold winters and deep snows, many miners came out of the mountains to winter in the Horseshoe Bend area and to graze any livestock on the grass covered foothills. Cattle and sheep ranching would later become a major industry in the low lying western foothills of the Boise Basin.

As a result of the mining industry, the timber industry also developed and grew in the Horseshoe Bend area. Heavy timbers were needed for mining shafts and the Payette River provided an excellent route to move logs to the many log mills along its banks and tributaries.

At that time, a man named Warriner built a saw mill in present day Horseshoe Bend. They called the town that built up around the mill Warrinersville until 1867 when residents changed the name to Horseshoe Bend.

Other lumbermen built sawmills that they eventually consolidated into a single mill. Boise Cascade became the final owner of the mill which closed in 1998.

Circa 1912 the Oregon Short Line Railroad constructed a line from Emmett, through Horseshoe Bend and up to Long Valley. The railroad began transporting logs to the mills.

On April 14, 1947, Horseshoe Bend became an incorporated village. On May 9, 1967 the village reorganized to become a city. The first mayor was Steve Helm.

Horseshoe Bend's population remained around 500 during the 1960's and 1970's. Subsequently, the population swelled to around 900, where it has remained for the past several years.

With the decline of the natural resource based economy, the Horseshoe Bend community is becoming an attractive community for people seeking small town affordable housing within an easy commute to their jobs in nearby Boise.

History of the Garden Valley/Crouch Area

Crouch:

Roosevelt's Tree Army Comes to Town

In 1934 a new post office established the identity of Crouch, now the commercial district for Garden Valley. The town was named after Billy Crouch, a miner who homesteaded near the confluence of the Middle and South Payette Rivers. In the 1920's, Crouch donated property for a new community hall in Garden Valley.

In 1933, the first Civilian Conservation Corps troops arrived at Camp Gallagher, located a dozen miles or so upriver from Crouch. The CCC was one of the New Deal programs initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to combat the Great Depression. Contrary to popular belief, Idaho suffered more than most states in the Pacific Northwest during this time. From 1929 to 1932, the income of the average Idahoan dropped nearly fifty percent.

Between 1933 and 1942 over three million men enrolled in "Roosevelt's Tree Army." They earned thirty dollars a month, twenty-five of which were sent to their families. This stipend, which seems terribly small compared to today's wages, kept many Americans off the relief rolls.

Most of the CCC boys came from urban areas back east. They were poor, hungry, and lonely for their friends and relatives back home, so when the Garden Valley Post Office was overwhelmed with their mail, a new one was established at Crouch. The new post office was conveniently located so that CCC troops working up the Middle Fork Payette River could pick up and deliver mail to local residents on their way to and from camp.

The CCC's helped support Garden Valley's economy during the midst of the nation's economic crisis. Camp inspection reports indicate that local settlers produced much of the food consumed at Gallagher Flat and Tie Creek, another CCC camp established on the Middle Fork Payette River in 1937. The townspeople, in turn, sponsored weekly dances and movies for the CCC enrollees.

Garden Valley: Yellow Gold and Golden Grain

In 1862, prospectors found gold in Boise Basin, located on the other side of the mountains south of the river. Their discovery led to one of Idaho's largest gold rushes. A year later, the basin's population, which included the Idaho City, Placerville, Pioneerville, and Centerville gold camps, swelled to between twelve and fourteen thousand miners.

Some of these miners, men like Thomas Scanlon, Patrick Glennon, and Donald McBride, immediately recognized the potential profits from supplying the basin's gold camps with fresh meat, produce and dairy products. They settled along the lush, fertile river terraces of the South Fork, where several fur trappers, relics of Idaho's fur trade era, had already established squatter's claims. One of those trappers, Charley "Yank" Ladd, built the first fish trap on the Middle Fork Payette River near its confluence with the South Fork. According to A.S. Abbott, a pioneer son who wrote of his family's experiences in Garden Valley, Ladd sold "immense quantities of the delicious fellow" to local farmers and miners in Boise Basin.

The valley's population was culturally and ethnically diverse. Although most of the immigrants hailed from Ireland and Scotland, they also came from Bavaria, Denmark, England, Prussia, Norway, and Switzerland. Mid-westerners from Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio were skilled farmers; still others were merchants. By the turn of the century, the valley's population had grown from seventy-nine people in 1870, the year of Idaho's first census, to three hundred people. Most of the men were engaged in farming, the rest were miners. Garden Valley developed into a close-knit community. Today, the descendants of many of these old families still live in the area.

Material taken from the Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan November 2001.

[top](#)



Miner panning in 1864



Boise Basin Mercantile Co. in 1896



Some cabins built around 1917 and remodeled in 1950's



Gold nugget worth about \$44 back in the day.

Bill Mutton Email me at: muttsmining@gmail.com

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

Secretary's Report October 20th, 2013

Milwaukie grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd

Milwaukie, Oregon

Meeting called to order by:

President Richard Ruth at 1:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion Made and seconded to accept the Secretary's report as written in the newsletter.
Motion was approved.

Treasury report:

Treasure report was read for the assembled members.

Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read.

Motion was approved.

Motion was made and seconded to pay the bills for the next year, motion was approved.

Attendance:

50 members were in attendance at the meeting.

3 Visitors was in attendance.

Correspondences: Jerry Johns

Elections: November will be the next elections cycle for the Associations elections. The positions of President and Treasurer are up for re-election along with all six board members at large. A proposal was made to cycle the board member at large on a two year cycle, where three will be elected each year. This will bring in continuity to the position. This was later discussed and approved by the board members and will start this election year. An election committee was put together consisting of the association secretary, librarian and another association member (Larry). They will take nominations at the next meeting and conduct the election in November.

Membership- Dave Chiara: To get a 2013 association membership card you need to be an active member of the PGPI group. It does not cost to join the association. If you attend three events (meetings, outings, etc.) during the year you will receive a membership card that is good for the calendar year. The membership card allows you to use the PGPI claims and participate in all activities PGPI related activities. If you are new you will receive a card after your third meeting/event. Please sign in on the sheets near the entrance so this can be tracked.

GPAA news – Bob Rasey: On the table where you enter the lodge, you will find stacks of the Pick and shovel Gazette and Gold Prospectors Magazine. These are free for the taking.

Outings/ Association Claims – Dave Chiara: SB838 put a damper on the August/ September day outings this year. The work this fall will be to understand what is allowed and will help us set up for a stronger outing schedule next year. Annual paperwork for the three claims near Baker City has been filed and is awaiting approval.

Newsletter editor: - Bill Mutton: Bill has completed the split of the newsletter into a short Printed version and a longer downloadable version. The short one is for mailing and printed version only. The longer version will have articles and pictures of different things.

Safety: - Bob Rasey: Weather is turning early this fall. Remember to dress in layers. You can always take off clothes if you get too warm. If you get wet, Gortex will not keep you warm. It helps repel the water, but once wet, you can freeze wearing Gortex. Wool is the only material that can keep you warm after you get wet. Also a must have is an emergency kit in your vehicle, this should include Water, Blankets and some high energy good sources. Also maybe tire chains and other safety devices for your car are recommended.

Library: Several new books are available this month. Please come on over and take advantage of the library. It's a great resource for all the association members.

Oregon DEQ meeting: Richard Ruth Meetings are being held across the state to understand how the DEQ will administer the new dredge permits from SB838 law. Only 850 permits will be allowed and not all applicants will get them. In addition the #700PM permits will need to be attached to equipment going forward
The association discussed and agreed that as an association, we should join the Public Lands for the People. This group is helping to keep the public lands open to the people.

Banquet Committee: Time to start thinking about the annual potluck/ banquet in January. Request for volunteers to organize this was opened to the association. Nine of the members volunteered, Jerry (Secretary) will organize the upcoming meetings for this.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm

(Respectfully submitted by Jerry Johns, Secretary)

Be on my committee – Outings

Need volunteers to help check out, select and run outing events.

Newsletter & Emails

If you have not been receiving the Newsletter by Email,

Please email us at portlandgpaa@aol.com

Don't forget, you can also download the Newsletter from our website.

Note from the Librarian:

If you happen to come across any good mining books or videos that might benefit the association, drop me a line. If you have books or videos you've checked out. Please remember to bring them back at the next meeting, that way others can experience them as well.

If you are a member that attends meetings regularly and would like the opportunity to help shape and support the association Please send an email to: joewebo01@yahoo.com or Jerry.j.johns@intel.com

Thanks, Joe Weber

Ron Farnsworth

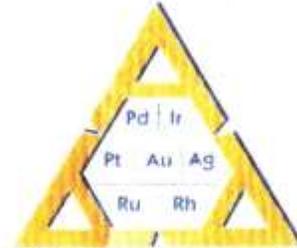
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 Wear your Colors

GPAA Membership Renewal Credits

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WHEN RENEWING, PLEASE WRITE A NOTE OR BY PHONE SAY YOU BELONG TO THE PORTLAND PGPI OR GPAA CHAPTER TO REQUEST THE CLUB CREDITS.

These credits are used to buy things from the GPAA Catalog. If you do not have a GPAA Catalog, you can go to <http://www.goldprospector.org> under the "Page Name" heading to see what all they have. If there is anything in the catalog that you would like to have for the raffle please let one of the board members know.

All members note:

Our club earns purchasing points with renewal of GPAA Membership. Please tell them you're a Portland Gold Prospector member.

**2013
Board Members**

President: Richard Ruth 503-663-9087 Richard.ruth5@comcast.net	Vice President: Robert Burns Rdburns77@hotmail.com
Secretary: Jerry Johns 503-649-4702 Jerry.j.johns@intel.com	Treasurer: Bev Parker 503-666-4301 bevpark@comcast.net
Claims and Outings: Dave Chiara 503-285-8553 dmchiara@comcast.net	Safety: Bob Rasey 503-703-7448 casebob221@columbiacenter.org
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Hospitality: Helen Burns 503-631-3071 cruisehl@yahoo.com	Webmaster Tom Jones 503-680-9159 tom@rosewindmining.com
Librarian: Joe Weber Joewebo01@yahoo.com	Sergeant at Arms: To Be Determined

Board Members At Large

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Dennis Carter Handyman5535@msn.com	Bill Bench swbench@comcast.net
Ken Burns cruisehl@yahoo.com	Anthony Chiara 360-952-1562

The Printed version of this newsletter is just the most important news about
Portland Gold Prospectors Association Meetings.

If you would like to see the entire Newsletter you can have it Emailed to you
Or go to www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org and you can view or download the whole
Newsletter there. I really want to make it very informative and complete, but it would
Be far too expensive to print out the longer version of the newsletter.