

# The Prospector

Volume 15 Issue 05

Website: [www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org](http://www.PortlandGoldProspectors.org)

May, 2015

## Chapter Meeting:

May, 17<sup>th</sup> 2015

At the  
 Milwaukie, Oregon  
 Grange Hall  
 12015 S.E. 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

## Dates to Remember...



**May, 2015**

## Our next meeting:

**On May 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**

For every 2 cans of food you bring in you can get 1 ticket for our \$1.00 drawing up to 5 tickets



## The Presidential Post

Portland Gold Prospectors

May 2015

From the President's Desk

Please join us on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll be talking about the UFO Event in McMinnville, the outing on the North Fork, donations and other important activities coming our way.

If you want to "attend" the UFO event at McMinnville and help out (and have a lot of fun) call Ken Burns or myself for times and dates.

We will also be letting you know what's happening regarding the Notice for activities on our claim at TYRoy. Too, on the list is our planned outing. Plan to join in and get all the details – this will be a great outing.

If you are a new member and want to receive the newsletter electronically, please let me know. If you are not receiving it yet – it's probably because we didn't get it written down correctly.

We will also be having discussions on what "you" would like to see your Chapter doing this year as well. We welcome your input and want to hear from you.

Also, don't forget your canned donations, or your "silent auction" items.

If you have friends, co-workers or others interested in learning about prospecting, invite them to join us and find out if it's something they'd like to do as well.

This is a great year to be prospecting and having fun and you can profit by others involvement and even find some gold. Remember memories become golden with time.

Sincerely

David Chiara

# Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

Secretary's Report April 19, 2015

Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22<sup>nd</sup> Milwaukie, OR

Meeting called to order by President Dave Chiara at 1:35 pm

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

## Attendance:

52 attendees at the meeting

9 visiting guests were present

## Meeting minutes:

A **Motion** was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's report as written and published in the newsletter.

The motion was approved by the Association members present.

## Treasury report: Beverly Parker

The Treasury report was read by the Treasurer to the association.

A **Motion** was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as written.

## Correspondence: Melinda Dorning

The Association receives a monthly newsletter from Eastern Oregon Mining Association that is available for members to read.

Melinda Dorning read the message from Ken Alexander, president of EOMA, regarding the closure and decommissioning of roads by the Forest Service; therefore, making it extremely difficult for prospectors to access mining claims.

## President's Report:

Dave Chiara discussed the success of the March 2015 GPAA Gold & Treasure Show at the Portland Expo Center. He mentioned our Association made a large profit at this event. Dave also introduced Randy Harper, president of the Vancouver, WA GPAA Chapter. Randy congratulated both chapters on working together to create the first Portland Gold Show sponsored by individual chapters and stated his chapter is interested in participating again in 2016. GPAA staff reported to him that the Portland event was the best one so far. The unofficial attendance count was 1,800 on Saturday and 500 on Sunday. Also, the Vice President Vancouver, WA Chapter, Steve Leweyn, spoke about the show and brought some pans signed by the TV celebrities and brochures with their pictures for our members.

## Claims and Outings:

Ken Burns discussed the schedule of events that will happen soon.

- Little North Fork of Santiam River, east of Salem on highway 22. Date was set as Tues, May 5.
- Daybreak Park: county park in WA state; has good access; 35-40 miles from SE Portland. This location is planned for our group on Sunday, June 14.
- Cape Disappointment: beach mining in WA state on July 19 or 26.
- Rice Museum of Gems: August 15, annual rock and gem displays and tour

Ken also discussed our membership requirement to attend only *3 meetings and/or events* annually to become a full voting member of Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

Joe Weber reviewed the next event that is a UFO Festival held in McMinnville, OR on May 15 and 16. The association will sell gold bags, demo panning, sell souvenirs, offer Plinko and other possibilities. Members are encouraged to sign up now or contact an officer to participate. This is an unusual and fun event.

#### Safety:

Dave Chiara reminded members to tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you plan to return when you go prospecting (in case you don't return as planned). He suggested you take a safety kit consisting of extra water, food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. These things can make a difference if you get into trouble. Also, list the Sheriff's office non-emergency phone number in your cell phone for the area you are exploring.

#### Newsletter:

Bill Mutton asked members to send him ideas for new topics in the newsletter. This month he wrote on metal detecting. He is always looking for new places to discover and report in the newsletter. Reminder, the newsletter is available on the Association website. To have a copy mailed to you, there is a \$15.00 annual fee to cover printing and mailing costs

#### Library:

Joe Weber brings the library materials each month so members can check them out and return things the following month to make them available for others to enjoy. The library is free to members. Let Joe know if there is something you would like to have added to the library.

#### Old Business:

Gold Show Coordinator, Joe Weber, thanked all of the members who made the recent Gold Show a success. In order to show appreciation and recognize those who volunteered, he announced there will be a special raffle today for those who helped where each shift worked earned the member 1 ticket.

Also, Dave Chiara presented Joe and Vicki Weber with a card and gift of appreciation from the association for the large amount of time and effort he spent in organizing the Gold Show; including communicating with the head GPAA office, scheduling volunteer duties, preparing lunches for volunteers, and working with the Vancouver GPAA chapter. His efforts were crucial to our success this year.

#### Club Claims: Dave Chiara

Joe Wood described damage he found when he visited the claim in the Baker City area. It appears people on 4x4 vehicles have driven through the ponds and on the hillside which caused quite a bit of damage. They also burned some trees. Glass and beer cans were cleaned up by Joe. Dave Chiara said he has contacted the nearby farmer and emailed to the B.L.M. about damage in this area. They are policing here as much as possible. The exact date this summer for some of our members to work on the claims has not yet been set and may need to be adjusted depending on available water in the ponds.

Dave asked members to let him or another officer know before they plan to be on our claims and reminded that no mechanical digging is allowed currently.

#### Silent Auction Items:

Anyone may bring items to donate for others to bid on. Charlie Foster brought his popular hand-made pick ax this month.

Code of Conduct: Dave Chiara reminded members to contact a Board member for any concerns.

#### Monthly Item of Interest:

Vice President, Jerry Johns discussed the mining permits that are usually needed to prospect or use mining equipment in Oregon such as from Department of State Lands, Department of Environmental Quality, Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries, and Forest Service off road permits. Portland Gold Prospectors (association) endeavors to educate its members so they can understand the laws that currently regulate mining activities. He also presented information about the Gold and Fish Book that is used by Washington State for mining regulation. A document outlining these permits was distributed.

Member, Vern Frietias, talked about a non-profit advocacy group, American Mining Rights Association, who has posted several YouTube videos about why the government has closed roads to the public and miners. Vern asked members to view the videos and consider joining or donating to A.M.R.A. The website is <http://americanminingrights.com>.

Dave Chiara thanked the kitchen staff and those who donated cookies.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.

(Respectfully submitted by Melinda Dorning, Secretary)

## **Upcoming Group Events**

**At our next meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> we will have a speaker from AAA Metal's  
This is going to be a great time for you to learn where you can bring your Gold or Silver  
How much you have to have in order for them to buy it from you and, You can  
Buy Gold and silver from them.**

<b>U.F.O. Festival (McMinnville)</b>	<b>May 15-16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Day Break Park (WA)</b>	<b>June 14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>TY-Roy Claims (Eastern OR)</b>	<b>June-July</b>

**Be on my committee**

**Outings See Ken Burns**

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

**Newsletter & Emails**

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

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# Article of the Month

## Mining disappointment

Created on Wednesday, 29 April 2015 01:00 | Written by Paul Keller | [Print](#)  
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**Promise of gold lures prospectors to Mount Hood in late 1800s, but ends with broken dreams**

**The famous gold rush of yesteryear was not unique to California and Alaska. “Gold Fever” struck here, too. Smack dab in Mount Hood’s own front yard.**

**The outcome, however, just wasn’t the same.**

**Charlie Perschall was one of the turn-of-the-century (1800 to 1900) miners who spent 15 years in the hills above Welches prospecting for gold.**



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: BILL WHITE - The Northern Lights Mine, located in the hills south of Welches, in 1898. August Hornecker, who dug and worked this mine with his partner Alvin Meinig, is the gent in the white shirt on the top far right. This mine, one of several that were staked and explored at the turn of the last century in this area, was part of what was called the original Bonanza Claim. In more recent times it has been renamed the Bonanza Mine.**

**“He was a mystery,” the late Lutie (Welch) Bailey recalled in a 1980 interview. Daughter and only child of the original mountain homesteader Billy Welch — and the very first graduate of Welches School (in 1917) — Lutie explained how Perschall “would hike back down to our store every three or four months to get beans and coffee.”**

**She remembered how — “after years and years of hard work” — he came down off the flanks of nearby Huckleberry Mountain with a quart jar full of what he believed were gold nuggets.**

**Turns out they were chalcopyrite (KAL-ko-PY-ryt), otherwise known as fool’s gold.**

**“He became so despondent over the disappointment,” Lutie lamented, “that he killed himself with his shotgun.”**

**What the heck were they digging?**

**Files at the Clackamas County Department of Records reveal that between 1898 and 1901 more than 10 mines — and even more prospect holes — were being dug within the Zigzag Ranger District on U.S. Forest Service land.**

**According to the Oregon Metal Mines Handbook by 1903 approximately 100 claims had been located in the surrounding Mount Hood area foothills. Twenty were being developed.**

**So, what the heck were they digging?**

**That 1903 Oregon Metal Mines Handbook informs — somewhat perplexingly — that records of the United States Mint for 1893 list a production of 48.38 ounces of gold (which garnered \$1,000) from Mount Hood’s alleged lap. This gold was ascribed to the “Salmon Creek Chinese.”  
There’s more.**

**A front-page headline in the 1927 Sunday Oregonian screams: “Rich Ore Found on Laurel Hill — Gold, Platinum, Tin at Portland’s Door Deposit Known in 1850.” (Laurel Hill is the historic natural incline that rises from the Mount Hood Corridor floor up to Government Camp.)**

**The prospector, Sandy resident Ernest Sievers, told an Oregonian reporter: “I got some gold, but not enough to make it worthwhile.”**

**Instead, he explained, he was focusing on what he believed were other available minerals — including platinum and uranium.**



**Practically all of the old claims from this area found today in the Clackamas County records archives inform that various miners said they had discovered “a vein or lode of quartz or sand rock bearing gold, silver and lead.”**



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: BILL WHITE - C.W. (Lennie) Kern digging in his Cheeney Creek Mine south of Welches in 1903.**

**“That reflects an ignorance on their part,” assured Paul F. Lawson, the supervisor of Mine Land Reclamation for the Oregon State Department of Geology and Minerals in a 1980 interview.**

**“There is no silver or lead in Clackamas County,” he affirmed. “A lot of those old-timers were downright optimists. In the Washington Cascades, I’ve seen where some old guys had tunnels dug right back into basalt. That doesn’t say too much for them — except they got some darn good exercise.”**

## **Historic mystery and intrigue**

**Even so, names like the Northern Lights Mining Claim, Bonanza Claim, Yellow Kid Mine, Bohemia Claim, Gray Eagle Mining Claim, and Wild Buck Claim were grubbed out and worked during the turn of the last century from Laurel Hill on down to Huckleberry Mountain.**

### **Why?**

**“They all had a weird determination to dig in that mountain,” recalled Lutie (Welch) Bailey, the longtime Welches resident who was born there in 1902 on Thanksgiving Day.**

**Lutie’s mother, Mamie (Kopper) Welch, died when Lutie was only 12 months old. “I was raised with a bottle on a bearskin rug,” Lutie liked to joke. “I was an only child, I ruled the roost. I was a little mountain goat.” To help bolster this status, Lutie climbed to the top of Mount Hood in 1921 when she was 19.**

**Lutie’s father, Billy Welch, bought 500 shares of stock certificates in the Northern Lights Mining Company.**

**“Dad never did dig in it,” said Lutie, who died in 1996 at age 94. “But he invested money in that mine. There were so many people that became involved in it back then.”**

**We need to remember that back when Lutie was a young girl, no more than 30 families lived full time up on the mountain. Her childhood memories included those days when American Indians camped on her father’s land alongside the Salmon River, where they speared and smoked their salmon beside her family’s orchard.**

**The late Harry Abernethy, another longtime Welches resident and famous logger, also had personal insights into this area’s historic gold fever.**





**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: BILL WHITE - The late Lutie (Welch) Bailey at 17 in 1919.**

**Daughter and only child of original mountain homesteader Billy Welch, she recalled how so many men caught the gold fever and tried their luck at mining on the west side of Mount Hood at the turn of the last century.**

**“There were a good many guys who prospected around here,” Abernethy once recalled about those days near Mount Hood. But, he affirmed, none of these men ever had any success at their mining efforts.**

**“They never found a thing,” vouched Sandy resident Don Bodley in a 1980 interview. Bodley, then 92, vividly recalled hiking up to August Hornecker’s and Alvin Meinig’s Northern Lights Mine — located in the hills south of Welches — several times when he was a young boy. (Clackamas County records show this mine was part of what was called the original Bonanza Claim. More recently it has been renamed the Bonanza Mine.)**

**In 1980, Hornecker's nephew, Zigzag resident Albert Hornecker, was interviewed about his uncle's penchant for mining.**

**"When he wasn't mining, Uncle Aug lived at the Welches Hotel," informed Albert Hornecker. "He mined all his life and I don't think he ever had any luck anywhere. He was never rich. He never really had anything. But he was a happy man," the prospector's nephew remembered with a grin.**

**"He mined because he enjoyed it. It was all he could talk about. Uncle Aug couldn't wait till winter was over to get back up there to his mine. Mining was his life."**

**Hornecker's Northern Lights Mine was dug 500 blistering feet into the mountainside. What's more, the mine boasted an additional 87-foot shaft burrowed down to help provide air into this deep tunnel. Hornecker and Meining used a steel cart on tracks to expel tons of blasted rock from the belly of their mine. (See August Hornecker perched beside his mine's entrance in the included 1898 photo.)**

**Did his uncle ever think they were close to striking pay dirt?**

**"Oh sure," Hornecker chuckled. "All winter long when he was thinking about it."**

**Our mountains are too young**

**Longtime Welches resident Harry Abernethy, who died in 2007 at age 98, explained that the nearest smelter back then was located up in faraway Tacoma.**

**"That was the catch to it," Abernethy said, pointing out how the inability to separate what little ore was to be found in the rock here made the process prohibitive.**

**"Smelters over here aren't equipped to handle ore like this," prospector Sievers told the Oregonian back in 1927. "Maybe I'll have to reduce it to concentrate and ship it to Wales or Russia where they can extract the platinum and uranium."**

**Sandy resident Don Bodley recalled that a "mining expert" came up to Welches one summer when Bodley was a boy.**

**"He looked at the Northern Lights Mine and said there wouldn't be any gold dug out of these mountains because they're too young."**

**Lawson, the former supervisor of Mine Land Reclamation for the Oregon State Department of Geology and Minerals, agrees.**

**The noted geologist and mining expert, who retired from his post in 1987, explained that our Cascades are, indeed, too young.**

**“All the material is too well disseminated,” Lawson explained.**

### **Local mountain lore**

**So it’s unanimous. It seems everyone agrees that no one hereabouts ever reaped any monetary rewards from their hard-earned mining efforts.**

**And, of course, prospector Charlie Perschall’s shocking suicide puts an unfortunate — yet oh-so-telling — asterisk on the dilemma of mining for gold where it just doesn’t exist.**

**But what about that mysterious 48.38 ounces of gold from the “Salmon Creek Chinese?”**

**All places need their own “claim” to historic mystery and intrigue, right?**



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: BILL WHITE - The late Lutie (Welch) Bailey, 74, in 1976.**

**Bottom Line: While there might not be gold in these here hills, folks living in the morning shadow of Mount Hood are most definitely enriched with an abundance of interesting local mountain lore to mine.**

**Here's to striking it rich with a continued quest for unearthing our unique mountain history.**

**Longtime mountain resident and former Sandy Post editor Paul Keller pens his "Beneath Wyeast" column once a month.**



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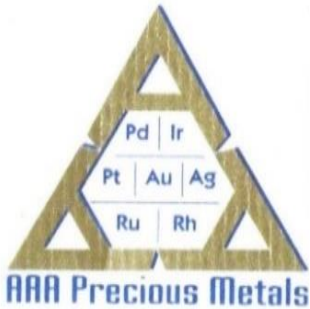
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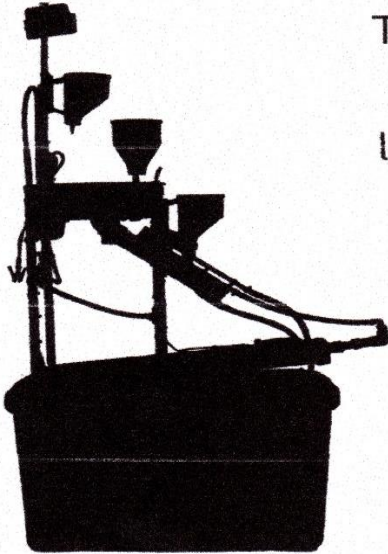
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Here's a link to more info [http://westernminingalliance.org/?page\\_id=626](http://westernminingalliance.org/?page_id=626)

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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.goldprospectors.org/catalog/index.asp?PageName=Catalog> to see what they have available. 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:**

The association earns purchasing points with renewal of GPAA Membership. Please tell them you are a Portland Gold Prospector member

**2015  
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**2014-2016**

**2015-2017**

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