



The Prospector

Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.

GPAA Portland, Oregon Chapter



August, 2019

LOST BLUE BUCKET GOLD

By JOHN D. MITCHELL
Map sketch by Margaret Gerke

IN THE YEAR 1845, four years before the California gold rush, an emigrant train was on its way across the great plains. Oregon, not California, was its goal — land, not gold, its mission.

The pioneers worked their way across the country with the aid of a compass. They crossed desert, plain and mountains keeping on a fairly straight course. If a mountain range stood in their way, they crossed instead of detouring around it. Finally they reached Gravelly Ford Crossing on the Humboldt River, at the present site of Beowawe, Nevada. Here they split into two parties. One party continued along the Humboldt River, while the other group struck due north by way of the Black Rock Mountains. From the latter party a strange tale originated years later.

Leaving the Black Rock Mountains behind, the wagon train came to a high mountain range. The approaching slopes were gradual, and the party managed to reach the top with all the wagons. From this high point the wagon boss got a good view of the surrounding country and took bearings on the Twin Sister Peaks. The west side of the mountain was found to be very steep. In those days lock chains were used as brakes, but they would not serve here. Heavy timbers were cut and chained to the several wagons, and in this manner they made their way down.

While the wagons were being taken down the mountainside, camp was made at a spring in the canyon below. Some of the members of the party,

gathering wood for the campfire, picked up pieces of metal that looked to them like brass. These people were farmers and knew very little about gold. They did not recognize the "pretty yellow rocks" as rich gold nuggets. The children picked up quite a few of the "pebbles" to play with. Several buckets were filled with them. The buckets, like the wagons, were painted blue.

While camped at the little spring, one of the women in the party became sick and died. They buried her near the spring, heaping up rocks on the grave, and left one of the little blue buckets hanging on a branch as a marker. After successfully crossing the mountain the little party continued on its way, unaware of the fortune swinging in the little blue buckets beneath the wagons. The emigrants had more grief while crossing the Deschutes River. The wagons capsized, the buckets were lost or their contents spilled into the water. Only a few of the little yellow pieces of metal—those the children were playing with or carried in their pockets—were saved.

The party reached northwestern Oregon, settled on homesteads and immediately undertook the task of making a living in the wild, untrammelled west. Several years later, a few of these settlers moved down to Sutter's Fort in California. Here they saw the nuggets recovered by Marshall in the mill race. The nuggets looked just like the little yellow rocks they had picked up in eastern Oregon. Eventually they obtained a few of the little stones from friends who had remained in Oregon, and showed them to their newly made acquaintances in California. They were pronounced pure gold. So much ex-

Recently John D. Mitchell, whose life-long hobby has been the collecting of lost mine and buried treasure tales, has arranged for the publication of 51 of his stories in book form on the Desert Magazine presses. This book is scheduled for release in the early fall this year. Following is one of the stories which will appear in the new book, "Lost Mines and Buried Treasures Along the Old Frontier."

citement was created by the discovery that a party of 90 persons was immediately organized to return to southeastern Oregon and search for the rich ground that had now become known as the Blue Bucket Placer.

Hostile Indians soon put a damper on the party's intentions. The outfit was ambushed, and more than half of the gold seekers were killed. Only two men who knew, or thought they knew, the location of the golden canyon survived to get back to California. These two were members of the original emigrant party. They died shortly afterwards due to hardships suffered on the trip. However, before they died they met and told a Dr. Drane of Yreka, California, the story and gave him specific instructions how to find the canyon in which they had found the nuggets.

Dr. Drane was running a store and hotel and doing some placer mining in addition to his practice, and he was loath to leave his business to travel north. A trapper from the Hudson Bay country on his way to the California goldfields stopped at Yreka. The doctor showed him some of the gold nuggets that he daily washed out in his sluice boxes. "If that's gold," said the stranger, "I know where there's a pile of it. In a steep walled canyon northeast of here are lots of those yellow stones—some larger, some smaller. A man could load two horses with all they could carry in half a day. Why, you could just pick them up right out of the streambed."

The trapper, it seems, had lured his horses in the canyon and had found the gold there the following spring when taking out the animals. While the trapper was describing the place, the doctor recalled the story of the two sick men. According to the description, the two places were identical. The interest of the doctor grew and grew. Eventually, with two trusted friends and the trapper, he set out to look for the canyon. The trapper backtracked by the dead embers of his campfires. Not until they reached the head of Goose Lake Valley did the doctor know where he was going. From

AUGUST, 1953

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Secretary's Report July 21st, 2019

Milwaukie, Oregon

2019 Portland Gold Prospectors Board of Directors

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Mike Lewis 503-413-9283
gmlewis238@msn.com

Vice President:

Jim Erwin 503-519-6200
jimerwin223@gmail.com

Secretary:

Yolanda Kragerud 503-775-0886
YKragerud@yahoo.com

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Joe Wood 503-791-2099
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Jerry Johns 503-686-9422
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Elaine Ruth 503-663-9087
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Ken Burns 503-631-3071
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Steve Lewin
goldpan123@yahoo.com

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Steve Kragerud 503-775-0886

Hospitality:

Elaine Ruth 503-663-9087
richard.ruth5@comcast.net

Newsletter and Website:

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WrshpMzshn@gmail.com

Milwaukie Grange Hall
12015 S.E. 22nd Ave.
Milwaukie, OR. 97222

President Mike Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

Vice President Jim Erwin led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance - 40 attendees and 1 visitor was present.

Meeting Minutes - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's Report of the previous month as written and published in the July newsletter. The motion was approved by the members present.

Treasury Report - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasury Report for July. The motion was approved by the members present.

LDMA Membership - A gentleman by the name of Al Winters has contacted our club and he would like to sell his LDMA lifetime membership for \$1200.00. This is a really good deal if anyone is interested. His contact information is available on a printout on the table.

Donations - We had a visitor come to our meeting named Rita Frye and she was kind enough to donate some miscellaneous stuff to our library. The stuff originally was her father's and was then passed on to her late husband. It's a lot of older magazines about gold mining and treasure hunting. There is also maps of old ghost towns and stuff. This will be a nice addition to our library.

Tyroy - It was another fun and successful outing in which a lot of people had showed up over the 2 week period. Our President awarded one of our members Cindy with a nice Gold Nugget for all her hard work and participation while she was up there for the whole 2 weeks. She was quite the trooper! For everyone who couldn't attend the outing they had a chance to win a bag of gold that was brought back. Jerry Johns passed out the raffle tickets and then

called out the winning numbers. There was about 10 lucky people who won the Gold bags with guaranteed gold in them.

Spiral - We are still selling raffle tickets for the Spiral for \$5. We have sold an estimated 10 tickets already and have about 30 left. The odds of winning are really good so buy yours soon before they run out.

Bird Feeder - Joe Wood was kind enough to donate a beautiful Bird Feeder that he made. We will be selling 30 \$5 raffle tickets for this item beginning next month. This is no ordinary bird feeder. It takes him about 30 hours to make these. I'm definitely buying me a few tickets and keeping my fingers crossed that I may be the lucky winner. I'm sure these tickets will go fast so get them while they last.

Elections - The elections are coming up in November and we will be needing a new President. Be thinking of someone you would want to nominate or even maybe yourself. We really need someone to step up to the plate for this position so we can continue our club and our meetings. Our current President Mike Lewis has volunteered to mentor the next incoming President for a year like Jerry Johns did for him.

Outings - Our next Outing is coming up on August 10th at Daybreak Park on the Lewis River. This time we will be able to bring motorized equipment like highbankers and such because it falls within the 2 week period that its allowed. We will be providing a picnic of hot dogs, chips and etc. Hope to see everyone there!

Raffle - The raffle was held with \$1 and \$5 tickets. Jim Erwin was the lucky winner of the Gold Nugget. Jerry Johns was the lucky winner of the Gold Bag.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Yolande Kragerud, Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S BLOG

AUGUST, 2019

Hello, fellow prospectors!

Thank you to everyone who attended the July Chapter meeting. It was very warm in the building – which was uncomfortable – so I really appreciate everyone who came.

I want to convey a special thank you to Rita Fryer, who generously donated a number of books, an extensive collection of magazines, and maps, etc. to the chapter – that pertain to prospecting. We are in the process of going through everything to determine the best way to make information available to chapter members. We also appreciate Rita taking the time to come to our July meeting to talk about how she acquired all of the information.

Please note there is a short time-frame until our next outing which is on August 10, 2019. Additional information is available in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Lastly, I was recently contacted by Eric Brant, who lives in SE Portland. Due to a medical condition, Eric can't drive. He has a friend who was usually available to take him prospecting, however, his friend's job schedule recently changed, so he is not always available. Eric is more than willing to meet at a location that works best for whoever he is riding with. Please either let Eric or me know your contact information if you can help Eric get to the next outing, etc. Unfortunately, I live a completely different direction from Eric – I will be heading south on I-5 to Daybreak Park, when most everyone else will be heading north! Eric's contact information is: 503-686-8575 e-mail: dropear77@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

If you have any pictures from Chapter meetings, outings or other get-togethers, that you would like to share, please send them to Tim Snyder @ wrshpmzshn@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next Chapter meeting on August 18, 2019.

Thank you and Happy Prospecting!

Mike Lewis
President
Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.
gmlewis238@msn.com
503-413-9283



Mike Lewis presented Cindy with a nice gold nugget as thanks for all she did at the TY Roy outing.



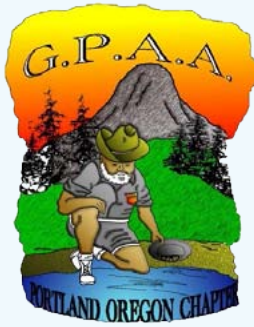
Charlie Foster mined well over an ounce of gold at TY Roy, which he shared with his helper friends. Pictured above is the tailings pile from his trommel.



Jerry won the Bag O' Dirt in the \$1 raffle. We know he needs panning practice. :-)



Jim Erwin won the Big Nugget in the \$5 raffle.



PORTLAND GOLD PROSPECTORS, INC. - OUTING AT DAYBREAK PARK AUGUST 10, 2019

Address: 26401 NE Daybreak Road, Battleground, WA 98604

Directions from I-5: Head north on I-5 across the I-5 bridge into Washington. Stay on I-5 north until Exit 11. Take Exit 11 onto WA-502 toward Battleground, WA. Stay on WA-502 for approximately 2.5 miles. Turn left on NE 72nd. After a couple of miles (+/- 2 miles) the road will take a couple of quick right turns and change names to 259th and then finally to NE 82nd Avenue. It is another ½ mile or so to Daybreak Park. The park is on both sides of the road. We will be meeting and working on the right side of the park.

❖ I plan to be there at 8AM – and will be there until around 1:PM. People are welcome to arrive and stay as long or as short as they want to. Please watch the weather and dress accordingly. Remember the river water will be cold!

❖ We plan to serve hot dogs, chips, salad, and water at the outing at around 11:30AM – so we need to get an idea of who is coming. If you did **NOT** sign the sign-up sheet at the July chapter meeting, please either call or e-mail me by *August 8, 2019* so we can plan accordingly – Phone: 503-413-9283 or e-mail: gmlewis238@msn.com. Thank you.

Equipment: The type of equipment you can use at this park varies at different times of the year. For this outing, you can use gas powered equipment such as a high banker, etc. It is also recommended that you bring a small shovel, as you will be digging in an area with lots of river rock. Pans, sluices, snuffer bottles, and buckets are also helpful. (Feel free to bring lawn chairs so you can sit down while you eat!)

➔ Please note you will need to have a copy of the Washington **Gold and Fish: Rules for Mineral Prospecting and Placer Mining (2018)** pamphlet with you when you do any kind of prospecting in Washington. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has the pamphlet available online, and there is a link to the information in the chapter's newsletter.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information regarding this outing. I hope to see you there!

Mike Lewis
President
Portland Gold Prospectors, Inc.
503-413-9283
gmlewis238@msn.com

Member Classified Ads



Member Joe Wood built this beautiful bird feeder and donated it to the club for a fundraiser. He also builds them for sale. If you'd like one, contact him at jclaire.wood@gmail.com.



For Sale, Royal Manufacturing compact high-banker.

30" sluice box, adjustable stand, Johnson 2200 GPH 12 volt pump. Extras include removable flare, 2 gal screened bucket, good for Washington waters, and a large tote. \$375.00 cash. Info call Bill Bench 503-708-4997.

FACE OF FORTUNE



By Jan Bob

McGee learned, in a strange way, that a hideous face is no bar to true love.

■ Whatever Jonathan McGee's dreams had been of home, a family and peaceful security with his fiancée Albeth Anderson, all seemed ended when a premature blast of a powder charge disfigured his face beyond all repair.

It seemed a useless waste of gold dust to pay doctors to repair the face that could now only be considered partially human. The grim set of his mouth, which was now no more than a thin, whitened line, thinned even more as he thought of the beautiful girl he had left back in Boston. Albeth and he had agreed that their prospects of marriage would be greatly enhanced if he took his chances in the California gold fields, rather than try to eke out a living for both of them with his clerking job in a small grocery store. It was a chance, of course, but there were fortunes to be made and Jonathan meant to make one of them.

With no more knowledge of mining than a novice in a nunnery, Jonathan washed out gravels frequently standing in the icy Sierran streams from dawn to dusk. What gold he washed out was carefully stashed away, and Jonathan didn't fritter his gold dust away on drink or gambling in nearby Sonora. Each day he was putting away more than he could have earned as a grocery clerk in a month. Finally he hefted his pouches of dust and estimated their worth. There was enough, he knew, to pay for Albeth's safe passage around the Horn on one of the best ships. He bought an express order and enclosed it with the letter asking that she take the next available ship. Then he turned back to mining, to put even more away.

A friend showed Jonathan a piece of strata which contained pieces of jewelry gold stuck in the rock like raisins in a pudding. Their first attempts were successful in prying out the nuggets of almost pure

gold. But a few days later when one of the charges didn't explode as expected, Jonathan went back to find the cause of the trouble. A faulty fuse finally touched off the charge, leaving Jonathan a broken, bleeding wreck. When he finally saw his face he knew that no girl would want to be married to such a monster. As soon as he was able, Jonathan wrote a frantic heartbroken letter to Albeth telling her that he had changed his mind, and didn't want her to come after all.

But he knew it was futile; his first letter would have arrived weeks before and Albeth would be on her way. What could he do? Jonathan couldn't, wouldn't leave Albeth to fend for herself in a strange California. He finally decided to return to work and gather as much gold as he could for her return home, let her see him, then live a life of loneliness as a bachelor. He was still uncertain what he would do when there was a knock on the cabin door. Instantly he recognized the voice.

It was Albeth, who had docked two days early on the UNION STAR and taken the stage directly to Sonora.

It was too late now. He couldn't run. Jonathan decided he might just as well shock Albeth with a full-faced greeting, though it would certainly be enough to drive her back home. With that Jonathan flung open the cabin door and looked into the lovely face of Albeth.

She rushed to him, arms outstretched. Her soft lips pressed against his. Her expression betrayed not one line of disgust or horror even after looking at his face!

Jonathan McGee looked just as handsome as ever to Albeth. During the long ship voyage from Boston, a flash fire in her stateroom had blinded her permanently. Kind friends had guided her immediately to the man who could care for her. To Albeth, her husband would always look as handsome as the day he left Boston to win his fortune.

RW

PORTLAND GOLD PROSPECTORS, INC. EVENTS CALENDAR - 2019

AUGUST 10TH – LEWIS RIVER DAYBREAK PARK OUTING (WASHINGTON)

AUGUST 18TH – CHAPTER MEETING – 1:30pm – MILWAUKIE GRANGE HALL

SEPTEMBER 14TH – STEVE LEWIN CLAIM (WASHINGTON)

SEPTEMBER 15TH – CHAPTER MEETING – 1:30pm – MILWAUKIE GRANGE HALL

OCTOBER 12TH – CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT OUTING (WASHINGTON)

OCTOBER 20TH – CHAPTER MEETING – 1:30pm – MILWAUKIE GRANGE HALL

NOVEMBER 17TH – CHAPTER MEETING – 1:30pm – MILWAUKIE GRANGE HALL

DECEMBER 15TH – CHAPTER MEETING – 1:30pm – MILWAUKIE GRANGE HALL

PLEASE REMEMBER ALL OUTINGS ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES



**A large gold nugget from the Kuskokwim Mountains of central Alaska.
6.6 x 2.0 x 1.1 cm. Weight 77 grams**

Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)]

We understand the **Washington Gold and Fish** pamphlet is still in effect. You must have it with you whenever you prospect in the state of Washington.

Download a copy to print here: [Gold and Fish](#)



Sponsors and Member Businesses



**SUMMIT
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Greg Swanson
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HANDCRAFTED PROSPECTING
EQUIPMENT



MYRTLE, DOUG, AND YEW

WOODWARE FURNITURE INSTRUMENTS TOYS



4TH TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH
12:00 NOON
DENNY'S CLACKAMAS

P.O. BOX 25
GLADSTONE, OREGON
97027
15815 SE 82ND DRIVE



Menziesii Metals
Jewelry & metalwork
Cindy Wright
West Linn, Oregon
503.701.3073
Etsy; MenziesiiMetals