



VOL. VIII

ISSUE #2

JUNE 2002

The Official Monthly Publication of the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada, Inc.

A Quick Thought From Your President?....

Experiencing for the 1st time the look, on some ones face of excitement about prospecting is exhilarating in itself. When that pretty yellow Gold is staring them in their faces, their expression is totally unique! Education is endless, they are eager to learn, attentive and excited to get out there for the challenge of hunting Gold! ARE YOU?!!! My Challenge was education, from the ground up.

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Two of our new members contacted me wanting knowledge on everything we know about prospecting.

If any new members ask you a question, do your best to answer them. I know, from personal experience, it is the best gift you can give them. My gift from them was the Gratitude they gave me in return, and the pleasure I got from seeing their excitement.
THANKS , SANDY BURTON, PRESIDENT

COMMENTS FOR HIGHGRADER

As the Treasurer and purchaser of your raffle door prizes I take pride in finding things that I feel you may want. It is not easy to stay within the dollar amount that the board has set.

I would like your ideas and comments on the things that have been available for the past 9 months. I can and will take all suggestions and try and work with them.

You may have noticed that

(Continued on page 6)

3 Month Activity CALENDAR

MAY 29th Last Wednesday
Executive committee meeting.

JUNE 5th 1st Wednesday-
General Membership Meeting

JUNE 22nd-23rd
Monthly Outing W/
Camping on Section 28
Day Activities on 5
Acres Directions will be given.

JUNE 26th Last Wednesday
Exec Committee Meeting

JULY 3rd 1st Wednesday
General Membership Meeting

JULY 20th-21st Monthly Outing, Camping at sec 28 w/ day excursions to sec 3 (new 20 acres)

JULY 31st Last Wednesday
Executive Committee Meeting

AUGUST 7th 1st WED MTG

AUG 24th-25th Mthly OTG
Tentatively scheduled for

Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada General Meeting 05/01/02

Attendance 133 members,
16 visitors

Sandy called meeting to order at 6:50 pm.

Sandy thanked all the RJ participants and those who helped out at the gold show at Primm.

Stephen Metcalf of ADP donated a very nice set of balance scales for the raffle.

Sandy then welcomed new members to the club and invited them forward to introduce themselves.

Sandy then asked me to read the minutes, that I didn't have, but really did as published in the Goldsearcher, oops.

Willie announced that there were flyers available to anyone interested in attending the "Orange County Forty-Niners 5th Annual Memorial Day Outing in the Piutes".

Sandy then went on to make announcements about our Arizona properties and our failure to be compliant on our claims. Parking and camping needs to take place on Section 28, not on the leased 5 acres. Sandy also asked that everyone park on section 28 for our upcoming outing. Sandy opened the property discussion to the members present and started by asking if the general membership would

Like to make the property legal. There was a debate about the options afforded us. Building permit requirements, septic requirements, purchase options. Permits for camping on the properties were also discussed.

Sandy mentioned that nuggets were being found in Meadeview. Recent finds included 6.85oz, 3/4oz, and 2oz. GO find them nuggets.

Sandy made mention that we may consider ending mass e-mailing. Earl wanted to know how much money it would save the club, the savings will need to be calculated for future consideration.

Sandy suggested an opt-out policy in the interim.

Sandy announced that travel on Hoover Dam was now open in both directions for trailers and motorhomes.

Sandy asked the membership for a volunteer for the position of assistant editor to help Pat out with the newsletter. A volunteer was found.

Sandy asked the membership for help on the claims committee and there were three volunteers.

Sandy called a break at 7:15 p.m.

Sandy called the meeting back to order at 7:40 p.m.

Sandy called Dick Vizani for a treasurer's report. Dick mentioned that the club had a current balance of \$8060, with \$317 donated for the x-mas nugget raffle.

A club member had a

question about more nuggets being raffled, and it was clarified that right now we are just raffling off one, but Dick asked for suggestions about what else the membership would like to have raffled.

Dick read from a letter from Bill Durban about his father's health and when he can get back to the posse.

Dick explained what the posse' main function is and that so far the Posse has marked off and closed over 55 abandoned mines. It has been rumored that sometimes the Posse even has time to do a little metal detecting and dry washing around these sites.

Sandy then introduced Dr. Lynell Braught to speak with the club about safety and his experiences in mining. He proceeded to give a very informative and humorous talk centering on safety and how "things are not always as they seem".

Sandy then started with the raffle.

Raffle Results:

Eddie won the door prize, a fanny pack water bottle combo.
Dick-nugget
Tommy-nugget
Harold-compass
Sam-nugget
Gary-nugget
Richard-Gold balance
Jack-nugget
Don-nugget
Chuck-folding chair
HL-loupe
Tom-magnet
Fred-hat

(Continued on page 6)

SUNRISE LIBRARY
COMBINED
WORKSHOP

On May 10, the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada and the Clark County Rock and Gem Club produced a prospecting workshop at the Sunrise Library.

Approximately 300 children along with their teachers were able to pan for GOLD, examine the mysteries of various rocks and gem stones, hold petrified wood in their hands and look into the marvels of prospecting by black light.

Metal detecting was explained, water sluicing was shown and the beauty of finding gold in a pan of dirt were the highlight of the show.

The Sunrise Gold panners were Duane Fortin, Pat Miller, Dan Green, Robbyn Gibbons, Pat Moore.

Earl Hunter, Education-Chairman



JUNE BOOK REPORT
BY JOE CATHCART

- # 7 THE WEEKEND GOLD MINER
- # 24 PROFESSIONAL TREASURE HUNTER
- # 28 MINES OF CLARK COUNTY
- # 29 COINSHOOTING II DIGGING DEEPER COINS
- # 72 MINING DISTRICTS & MINERAL RESOURCES OF NEVADA
- # 85 GOLD DIGGERS ATLAS
- # 87 GOLD FEVER -THE ART OF PANNING & SLUICING
- # 91 PLACER GOLD DEPOSITS OF NV we/map**
- #119 ARIZONA GOLD PLACERS & PLACERING**
- #128 NUGGET DRY AREAS**
- #129 SUCCESSFULL DRY-WASHING**
- #132 LOST MINES & HIDDEN TREASURES*
- #154 GOLD PROSPECTORS HANDBOOK*
- # GOLD, UNDERWATER SNIPING

#166 GOLD FINDING SECRETS

171 FINDING GOLD NUGGETS, we/detector

#174 THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FIND GOLD NUGGETS*

#187 EXPLORATION AND MINING GEOLOGY*

#176 FOLLOW THE DRY-WASHERS, "THE NUGGET-SHOOTER BIBLE"****

#205 Be Expert with MAP& COMPASS, Handbook**

#213 AMERICA'S LOST TREASURES**

#216 GOLD, NEW METHOD of PROSPECTING Shows How To Find Hidden Mineral Deposits

#240 THE EXTRACTION OF FREE GOLD,(Virgin Placer Gold)*

Books must be returned at next months meeting.

Books can be requested prior to meetings.

870-1445 JOE CATHCART, LIBRARIAN.

**MEETING JUNE 5TH,
STARTS AT 6:45 PM
SEE YOU THERE!!!**

Rattlesnake Brad's Treasure Hunt

Excitement was building as those who signed up for Rattlesnake Brad's Treasure Hunt waited as the time drew near.

There was 24 planted nuggets waiting to be found. In addition Rattlesnake Brad had donated eight other items to be claimed by finding the coupons that was also hidden. Also waiting to be found was close to 200 coins that would give the finder points towards one of the two nuggets for the winner of first and second place.

Of the seventy or so people that had shown up for the outing, 35 signed up to be in the treasure hunt.

The treasure hunt lasted for 90 minutes and then everyone brought what they had found to be counted up and see who had won the top two prizes.

During the treasure hunt 13 people found buried nuggets. They found a total of 18 nuggets between them. Here is a list of those lucky ones. Jim Miller - 3 nuggets, Par Nardi - 2 nuggets, Art Fields - 2 nuggets, Doug Roberts - 2 nuggets, Don Bradley - 1 nugget, Craig Nichols - 1 nugget, Eric Nacht - 1 nugget, Bob Boyle - 1 nugget, Wayne Bush - 1 nugget, Pete Clayton - 1 nugget, Mike Kennedy - 1 nugget, Dalton Wellmon - 1 nugget, Rich Summers - 1 nugget.

In addition to those nugget that was found, five coupons was found that would claim the finder to a prize donated by Rattlesnake Brad. Here is the lucky ones. De-

tectorist Scoops were won by Craig Nichols and Pete Clayton. Genuine Gold Test Nuggets were won by Eric Nacht and Rich Summers. Detectorist Pin was won by Rich Summers.

While most people came in with some of the coins that was buried, Rich Summers and Dalton Wellmon won first and second place nuggets for coming in with the most points for coins found.

After the treasure hunt had ended Bud Kaas took, Jeff Bierstedt, a friend of his into the hunt area to see if he could find one of the remaining nuggets. Fortunately for Jeff he did indeed find one of the remaining six nuggets. That left five to go.

Yvonne Fine, Rattlesnake Brad's wife, decided not to enter the treasure hunt since she didn't want people claiming she knew where they was buried, since Rattlesnake Brad had buried the nuggets and other items. (For your info she didn't know where they was hid, in fact Brad didn't either - more later on this) About an hour after the treasure hunt had ended Yvonne decided to go see if she could find one of the buried nuggets.

She had hunted for close to an hour and had only found a coin that had been missed. Note: close to a hundred coins had not been found during the hunt. Rattlesnake saw her digging a big deep hole and walked over to where she was digging and said, "I didn't bury anything more than 4 to 5 inches deep, so don't waste your time digging deep holes." Yvonne replied, "It is a valid signal, so I will keep digging." "OK" Brad said and went back to sit down. In about 20 minutes, Yvonne was hollering, "GOLD!! I FOUND GOLD!!" You could hear her all over the camp area. Many people walked out to meet her as she came back in to camp with her GOLD NUGGET. It

was a 8.2 gram gold nugget that she had found at 23" deep. Was she ever excited. Of course those that know her, know it could be a .2 gram and she would be equally as excited. Note: After a complete cleaning the weight of the nugget is now 8 grams.

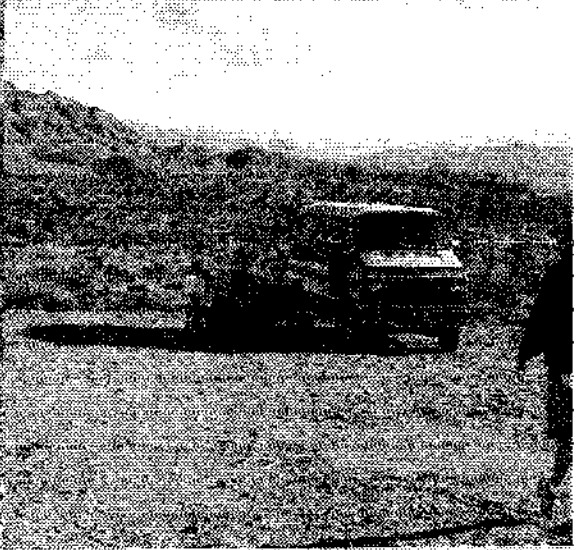
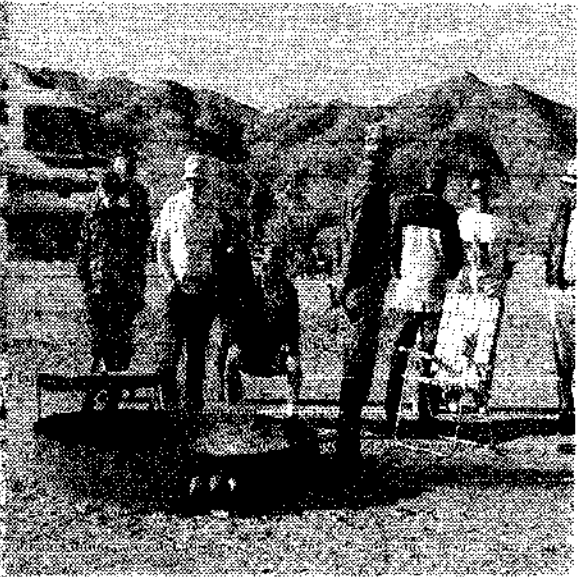
Later that evening Rattlesnake decided to go out and see if he could find one of those nuggets. He couldn't. (He spent a total of five hours looking but couldn't find any of those left.) BUT he did find a 6.3 gram nugget at 9 inches and the next day in the same area he found a .4 gram nugget. These were both natural nuggets and not those that was planted for the hunt.

Jim Miller, who had found three of the planted nuggets during the hunt had gone out to again try his luck. He didn't find any of those left, but he also found a natural nugget. It weighed about .2 gram.

The next day Yvonne again went out to try and find the planted nuggets and during the course of the day found two of the planted nuggets and one of the coupons.

At the time of this writing there is at least 3 nuggets still out there waiting to be found. A few have tried but so far no luck. How about you, go give it a try. You may be the lucky one to find one of the remaining nuggets.

NEXT MEETING:
JUNE 5TH AT 6:45 P.M.
SEE YOU THERE!!!



(Continued from page 1)

some things are always available, but is in trying to keep the same number of items available for each month's drawing. There are two fewer nuggets but they are now larger. There will be a return of plastic classifiers. I found out that for those of you using a metal detector, this is a great thing. All you need is a 5 gallon pail, without a metal handle, and that classifier and you can detect larger stones and detect the gold much easier than leaving them on the ground. The raffle contributes to the treasury and helps pay many of our ongoing expenses. So let me know of your ideas and preferences, and I will see what we can do.

DICK VEZZANI

FOR HISTORY BUFFS WHO LIKE TO CHECK OUT OLD OR HAS BEEN GHOST TOWNS— By Cathcart.....

In a briefing of locations over a weekend, a good starting point is in Lincoln County. For those coin shooters looking for old coins, etc., and are familiar with Delamar, nv, I personally research for surrounding tent sites or small towns which were started prior to the big gold rushes and found a few places not too well known and wanted to pass them on. I picked Delamar as most detector people know where it is as a starting point.

One of the early cities was the Golden City which was located

in a canyon on the west side of the Meadow Valley Range, about three miles north of the location that later became the town of Delamar. The life of Golden City was brief, by the end of May its residents had moved an adjacent canyon to the south where they had founded a new settlement called Helene. The town was situated between the hills and consisted of about a dozen tents and two frame buildings scattered over about ten acres of a level spot in the canyon.

The business houses consisted of a drug store, a boarding house, a lodging house and two saloons. Helena was situated in the Ferguson district which consisted of about 150 people and were scattered from Cedar Springs on the south, five miles from Helene, to Grassy Springs, about six miles in the opposite direction. The valuable ore was hauled to the railroad at Milford. To the Bullionville mill, or to a mill at Hiko. Delamar was founded in the spring of 1894. Good Hunting! Been there. Done That.

Joe Cathcart



- Phil-pan
- Tom-pan
- Jerry-knee pads
- Harold-gloves
- Check(?) -mess kit
- Sam-stew
- Kyle-water purification kit
- Edward-clay gone
- Eddie-coupon for GSSN cap
- Gene-bandana
- Sandy ended the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Executive Committee mtg 04/24/02

Sandy called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Sandy asked if there was any old business and Dick had some.

Dick had a report from Bill Durbin about his family issues and Bill said it would be about a month and a half before he would be able to get back to work.

Dick also gave the Treasurers' report and noted that we had a total of \$8212 in the treasury. He also reported that some club members mentioned having a hard time finding club officers at the meetings, and suggested that they sit at the head tables at the general meeting.

The clubs CPA's are requiring detailed information and corporate background to get our non-profit status back in order. The club is currently in non-conformance.

Duane mentioned having prob-

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 7)

new (or old) fields of Gold. Eldorado Canyon, Nelson, Searchlight, Pahrump, etc. Call me at _____ lets talk about it

Duane Fortin. VP and Outings Chairman

Dredgings by CATHCART

Since the Club has the V-SAT Detector to loan to members, here are a few short quickies on Whites Goldmaster V-SAT settings. As suggested by Jim Straight.

A common mistake in using the V-SAT is trying to use too much sensitivity, which may affect the detector (and meter's) accuracy. Another trick is to bury a Jefferson nickel at about 6 to 12 inches in mineralized ground, and "set up" on it. (using a nickel as the standard has about the same conductivity as a gold nugget). Search in low threshold on the ground balance as you search. Try to make the ground balance adjustments by tweaking the course knob. It may be less confusing than the other two. The V-SAT enjoys the distinction of being able to "hit the tiniest bits," as well as having "punch" to find larger and deeper nuggets. It will find tiny sub-grain pieces of gold so small that some hunters may not want to spend the time required in recovering



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HENDERSON 566-9756 ASK FOR JOHN

The next meeting is JUNE 5th, at 6:45 p.m. Hope to see you there!!!.....

LISTING OF CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: SANDY BURTON P#1-9;
E-MAIL bul _____ k.net
VICE PRESIDENT: DUANE FORTIN P# _____ 79
E-mail putt _____ aho.com
TREASURER: DICK VIZZANI P# 7
E-MAIL ball_60@yahoo.com
SECRETARY: MIKE LAPLANTE P# _____ ^492
E-MAIL mlk _____ :lig

Committee Chairs

Education committee Earl Hunter

702-
Librarian

Joe Cathcart
702-

Outings Committee
Sorry, but all I got was a hand and no name for this printing.

Claims Committee
Again, I heard there were three volunteers, but I've received no names.

Newsletter Editor: Patrick Miller
702-207-

E-MAIL _____ m@cs.com

Any I'm forgetting to mention please come see me at the meeting!

How Much Is The Gold I Find Worth?

From the website
freeyellow.com/members2

When you are new to prospecting, it is sometimes hard to figure out just what is going on. One of the worst things is to have to admit you don't know about something. An example, I was on the Arkansas River with the sluice one day. A guy that was kind of new at prospecting came up to me with a smile beaming from ear to ear. He was very excited as he waved to me off to the side. He had something to tell me that was sort of secret, or so he thought. He said to me, "This place is great for black sand!". He then showed me a 1/2 full 5 gallon bucket of black sand. He was under the impression that the black sand was what we were all looking for, since that is what he saw in most of our buckets. You will usually find black sand where you find gold, but finding black sand doesn't necessarily mean you have found gold.

So, when you get around people who are talking about their success over the week-end, you will hear words like flake and flour. Someone might mention the pennyweight they found, and you might not want to admit you don't have a clue to what they are saying. Here is a little bit of terminology to help you out.

BLACK SAND—This is exactly what it sounds like, sand that is black in color. It is usually an iron. Gold does hide in black sand, but this is not the goal of prospecting, since the gold hiding in there is awfully small, and it takes a lot of time to separate the gold from the sand.

FLOUR—This should be obvious. The gold looks similar to baking flour, only it is gold in color. Sometimes it is microscopic in size, and people wonder how you found it without a microscope.

SPECK—This is going to be just a bit bigger than FLOUR, but it is still very small.

FLECK—This is similar to a SPECK, but it is flatter in shape, and still very small and difficult to separate from the black sand.

FLAKE—Now we're getting somewhere! A FLAKE is going to be larger in size. You will begin to get excited when the gold you are finding reaches FLAKE size. A FLAKE is too small to pick up with your fingers, but you can get it with a tweezers.

PICKER—Yahoo! This is a piece of gold big enough to pick up from your pan with your finger and thumb. If you have to fumble around to get it, it is a SMALL PICKER. If you can pick it out with little difficulty, it qualifies as a NICE PICKER. If it is real easy to pick up, call it a NICE PICKER.

When you actually hear a piece of gold hitting the bottom of your pan, or the bottom of your sluice, you may get real excited. Some people call these PLINKERS, but for the most part, they are SMALL NUGGETS. If one dents your pan or sluice, no doubt about it, you got a NUGGET!

MEASUREMENT FOR GOLD
 ONE OUNCE EQUALS:
 20 Pennyweight—OR—31.10
 Grams—OR—480 Grains

ONE PENNYWEIGHT
 (ABBREVIATED AS dwt.)
 EQUALS:
 1.56 Grams—OR—24 Grains

ONE GRAM EQUALS 15.43
 grains, so if you find a NUGGET
 that weights 48 Grains, it also
 weights 2 dwt. (Pennyweight), and it

also weighs 1/10th of an OUNCE. To add just a bit more confusion, this measurement system is based on TROY OUNCES. These are not the same ounces we use to weigh and measure everything else. TROY is used for measuring precious metals only. You see, a TROY POUND is only 12 ounces!! When you measure flour or whatever, you are using the AVOIRDUPOIS weight system, which is 16 ounces to a pound. WHY? I don't know, it is a French thing from a couple thousand years ago. Just remember, when you have a POUND of gold, it is 12 TROY OUNCES.

THIS IS THE WAY TO COMPUTE THE VALUE OF THE GOLD YOU HAVE. NOTE THAT THE VALUE USED IN THE FOLLOWING COMPUTATIONS (\$350) IS ONLY FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES AND IS NOT NECESSARILY THE CURRENT VALUE OF AN OUNCE OF GOLD GRAINS.

Take the value of gold and divide it by 480. This will give you the value of a GRAIN. EXAMPLE—\$350 divided by 480=.73—So, each GRAIN of gold is worth 73 cents.

PENNYWEIGHT

Take the value of gold and divide it by 20. This will give you the value of a PENNYWEIGHT (dwt). EXAMPLE—\$350 divided by 20=17.5—So, each PENNYWEIGHT of gold is worth \$17.50. BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE! If your NUGGET is large enough to be made into a jewelry piece, it's value increases. Also, if your nugget has CHARACTER, that is, it looks like something or somebody in particular, then that also increases it's value. These factors can double or even triple the value of your nugget.

SO GET OUT THER AND START PICKIN' AND DIGGIN' GOOD LUCK!

IN Reference to the Article on Facing Page: I Acquired it From The February 2000 issue of the Highgrader Page 14

Membership article for May 2002

Just a reminder! You must get your change of address to me before I print the mailing labels for the Highgrader. This is usually around the 20th of the month. Failure to do so means it will go to your old address, or mail limbo. We no longer mail out renewal reminders, so if your mailing label says your renewal month is April, you have until the time I print labels in May to renew otherwise you must obtain a copy of the Highgrader from your buddy. If you eventually renew your dues, your original dates are reinstated. I keep you in the database at least a year after you quit paying dues. **Yes!** you need to fill out a new Application/Hold harmless Agreement when you renew your membership.

Have you sent in your tickets yet for the big nugget drawing? If we all wait til the last minute, we might not be able to process all the tickets in time. Is someone going to take a picture of the nugget for

the website and Highgrader? Regarding e-mail addresses..... They are difficult to read when placed on the forms, since we all don't have the same handwriting. Also I process dozens of changes a month due to ISP changes.

If you want to get news flashes, I must have your latest e-mail address. The best way to do this is to e-mail me at wbiroon@yahoo.com that way I can paste it directly into the GSSN database.

There are still openings for membership committee understudies, I do not want to be the only one that works membership files and records. The more members that get involved, the smoother it goes especially if one falls sick or goes on vacation. Did you know that if you want to chair a committee you can request a listing of all members who expressed a desire to help? Just ask me! The membership database has this information and a report can be produced.

By the time you read this, I will have returned from my California motherload expedition and with luck have some gold to show. Until next month....think GOLD!
Willie

*NEXT MEETING IS
THE 5TH OF JUNE AT
6:45 P.M. HOPE TO SEE
YOU ALL THERE !!!*

THIS SPACE WAS RESERVED FOR THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT/ UNFORTUNATELY I DIDN'T RECEIVE ONE.

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THAT THEY ARE
THERE FOR A PUR-
POSE. WE PUBLISH
SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE, AND
SOME PEOPLE ARE
ALWAYS LOOKING-
FOR MISTAKES!!!!"

!THANK YOU, PAT MILLER
OR IN OTHER WORDS I'M ONLY
HUMAN, I HAVE BEEN
KNOWN TO SCREW UP!

WHEN
YOUR
SEARCHING
FOR
GOLD
DON'T
FORGET
TO
LOOK
AT

GOLDSEARCHER.COM

*For All You Ghosttown-
ers & Treasurehunters
ATTENTION!!!*

*On JUNE THE 6th
Robbyn Gibbons will be
taking a group on a ghost
town trip about 50 miles
south of Kingman, AZ.
If Interested Contact
HER at 645-6571 daily
after 12:noon*

