



HIGHGRADER

Vol. RB-VII MARCH 2001

The Official Monthly Newsletter Publication of the Gold Searcher's of Southern Nevada, Inc. A not-for-profit Nevada Corp.

GHOST TOWN AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEETING

Stanley W. Paher, the author of the very popular book, *Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps*, will present a 35 minute slide show and lecture on the topic of Southern Nevada Ghost Towns, at the March 7th meeting. Starting time is 7:00PM.

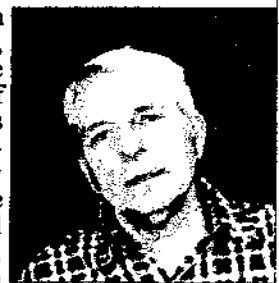
The presentation will feature contemporary views of mining camps of long ago, including Goldfield and Rhyolite as well as color slides Paher took recently of Ghost Towns in their abandonment. A question and answer session will follow Paher's presentation, and his books will be available for purchase and autographing.

Stan Paher is well qualified to speak of ghost towns and Nevada mining history. In all, he has written 19 books on the subject, covering not only Nevada but eastern California and Arizona localities as well. His current book is an illus-

trated ghost town Atlas which features up-to-date maps, 57 in all, directing the desert researcher to ghost towns, state stations, military outposts, and also gold and gem stone hunting sites, the emigrant trails, hot springs — anything of interest to the rural Nevada traveler.

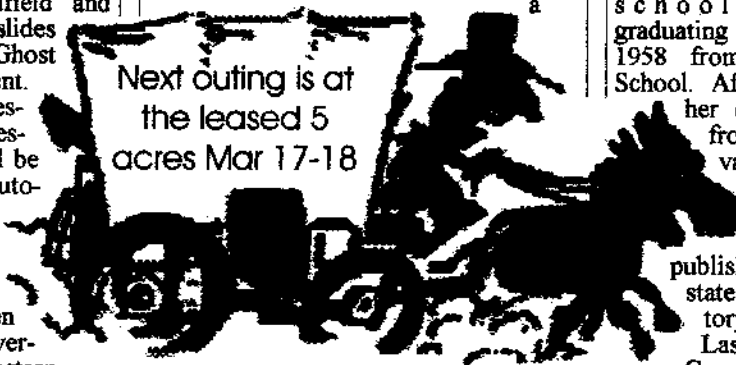
Paher is a native Las Vegan currently living in Reno, where he operates

her was born in 1940, when the population of Las Vegas Valley numbered only 8,300. He attended local schools, graduating in



1958 from old Las Vegas High School. After a stint in the Navy, Paher earned a master's degree from the University of Nevada in 1969. At the same time, he was writing his first book, *Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps*, published in 1970. It is our state's all-time best selling history book. In 1974 he wrote *Las Vegas, As It Began, As It Grew*, a large coffee table type book lavishly illustrated with 225 illustrations depicting scenes of the formative years of our city. It is also available at all local book stores.

Next outing is at the leased 5 acres Mar 17-18



book publishing and distribution business when he is not hiking and prowling about the desert. In the next month or so he has trips planned to Grand Wash Cliffs and

Toroweap in Arizona and to Gold Point and vicinity in Nevada. Native Las Vegan Stanley Pa-

NEWS FLASH

Be sure to watch for the next issue and see 6 nuggets found at the February outing by three individuals.

For the last 30 years Paher has owned and operated both in Reno and Las Vegas

a publishing firm, Nevada Publications. For various authors, he has distributed more than 110 books on Nevada history, especially about mining, railroading, and early Las Vegas history.

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Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Calendar of Events and Meetings

- Feb. 28 Executive Board Meeting
 Mar. 07 General Membership Meeting
 Mar. 14 Mid-Week Outing *
 Mar. 17-18 Outing on leased 5 acres
 Mar. 21 Mid-Week Outing*
 Mar. 28 Executive Board Meeting
 Apr. 04 General Membership Meeting
 Apr. 20-22 BIGGEST Willie Outing on leased 5 acres
 Apr. 25 Executive Board Meeting
 May. 02 General Membership Meeting

* For all mid-week outings check with Dan Boone

General Membership Meeting February 7th. at Nevada Palace

Meeting called to order at 7:00 with President Frank Mahoney presiding. Attendance 128, with 26 new members.

President was present, VP was absent, Treasurer was present, Secretary was absent. Leilani Leclerc acting secretary for meeting.

Report from treasurer was given and a report of audit committee was given. Audit committee is not yet finished with audit as they are waiting for some receipts, etc. They are recommending new rules for the handling of funds. Any new rules in this regard will be listed in this publication. Please read and acknowledge.

Election committee report. Nominated and will run are the following.
 President—Frank Mahoney
 VP—Dick Venzani
 Treasurer—Mort Lemonde is a maybe as is Bud Keas

Secretary—Leilani Leclerc
 Club Greeter—Roland Leclerc

Library committee report by Dan Boone, metal detector goes to George Neiderriter for the month of February.

Education committee report by Dan Green, gave a suggestion to read the Highgrader. Changes have been made and some things are very interesting. Read it!! He is also offering some maps and how to read them. He has a tape on how to pan for gold etc. Ask him for it or see the librarian.

NEW BUSINESS

Willie Biron talked about the newcomers kits he had put together. He

said those that didn't sell that night would be used as door prizes at later meetings.

Letters were written to the governor, president and interior secretary about the laws that came out about the use of motorized dry washers, generators prospecting equipment. Also about the coverage of holes made by the member while prospecting. Also the digging and stealing of trees.

We need a committee of at least three people to inquire and decide what to be done on our new property. If interested contact Frank.

Our guest speaker was Gus Lagerstrom. He spoke about how Minelab of Adelaide, Australia started and how they have acquired a huge percentage of the detector business. He also spoke on the Explorer XS, the GP Extreme and a few words about the Musketeer Colt we are raffling off. (All tickets are now sold, drawing will be at the March meeting) He then mentioned a little about the National Park system and the fact that no detecting is allowed in the parks. He was well received and very interesting.

John Bur was winner of the this months sign in Gold Picker Award. Jeanette Rexford was the winner for last months Gold Picker Award.

The following have volunteered to be on the By-Law committee. Dan Boone, George Neiderriter, Roland Leclerc and Leilani Leclerc. Raffle winners are as follows: Norma-gold nugget, Tony-radio, Bill-gold nugget, James-gold nugget, Tim-gold nugget, Greg-scale, David-radio, Charles-ped, Bill-pan, Dan-

GSSN OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	
Frank Mahoney	1
VICE-PRESIDENT	
Sam Johnson	2
TREASURER	
Mort Lemonde	5
SECRETARY	
Bridget Pope	21
CLUB GREETER	
Leilani Leclerc	56
MEMBERSHIP	
Rattlesnake Brad	45
LIBRARIAN	
Dan Boone	24
EDUCATION	
Dan Green	79
EXPLORATION & CLAIMS	
Dan Boone	24
NEWSLETTER	
Rattlesnake Brad	451
OUTINGS/FIELD TRIPS	
George Niederriter	236
PUBLIC RELATIONS	
Gus Lagerstrom	1
WEBMASTER	
Dan Wright	

magnifying glass, Beth-charm holder, Richard-pan strainer, Tom-pan, George-clay-be-gone, Gary-sweat shirt.

Sierra, drew all the tickets for us.

Outing for this month is at section 28 / 5 leased acres. No food will be served. Ground is to wet to dry wash, but detecting is fine.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Leilani Leclerc

NOTICE

Section 30 has been sold
and is no longer available
for us to use.

NOTICE

PLEASE FILL
YOUR HOLES
ANYONE CAUGHT NOT
FILLING HOLES,
DIGGING UP
CACTUS PLANTS, OR
LEAVING TRASH
WILL BE BANNED FROM
OUR CLUB CLAIMS
THIS MEANS YOU

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

by Dan Green

March

The guest speaker for March is Stanley Paher. Author of many books about Nevada, Gold mining in Nevada and Placer gold fields.

Other future speakers will be; Richard Wyman. Geologist He was one of the more interesting speakers from our past. He will tell us where gold is most likely to be found. He was the owner and operator of the Techatacup Mine in Nelson, Nevada for a long time.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

WOW

The meeting was packed with 128 people, great turnout.

I would like to think it is because of the great job I am doing. Really, It was because of two people Gus Lagerstrom the speaker of the night (great job thanks) and our education chairman, Dan Green with his article in the RJ. about free gold.

If you did not see it call him and he will tell you about. Or was it because we are moving to change the by_laws?

Anyway for whatever reason 128 signed in. Show's the interest by the membership is picking up.

Frank Mahoney

NOTICE

All committee chairmen, part-time editors, ads, articles and whatever else you may want in the Highgrader, must be given to editor no later than the 20th of the month. After that, editor will try to get it in, but cannot guarantee it.

NO SMOKING

We are sorry, but due to consideration of others, there will be no smoking at the general meeting. If you wish to smoke, go downstairs to the casino please. Thank you.

ARTICLE 2

JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION. WE HAVE ELECTION COMING IN MARCH, WE HAVE APOX 464 PAID MEMBER AND WE CAN NOT GET 4 PEOPLE TO RUN FOR OFFICE??????????????

WE HAVE 4 POSITIONS OPEN AND ONLY 3 PEOPLE THAT ARE WILLING TO FILL THEM.

THIS IS YOUR CLUB,,

IT CAN NOT AND WILL NOT RUN

IF WE DO NOT GET (4) FOUR PEOPLE TO FILL THE OFFICES
Frank Mahoney

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

01-21-01 to 02-20-01

Bellissimo, Gaetano & Pauline Glover, Bob & Nan McClain, Dan & Carol Weaver, Harry & Ellen Clark, Richard Miller, Patrick & Diana Usher, Donald & Aida Usher, Ron & Judy Koeck, Peter Wright, Ken & Krista Long, Gary & Laura Duncan, Don & Pearl Carter, Scott & Marie

Make these new members feel welcome and show them the ropes.

Treasurer's Report

07-01-00 to 12-31-00

Inflows Total =	\$7,865.73
Outflows Total =	\$9,910.57
Balance 07-01-00 =	\$2,915.56
Balance 12-31-00 =	\$809.06
Petty Cash =	\$61.66
Cal Fed CD =	\$2,538.51
Wells Fargo CD#1 =	\$5,514.17
Wells Fargo CD #2 =	\$5,981.98
GSSN Total =	\$14,905.38

Membership Chairman Report

Funds collected and deposited through Feb 20, 2001

27 renewals =	\$540.00
11 New members =	\$385.00
3 Claim Books =	\$3.00
Badges & postage =	\$15.68
Ads =	\$20.00
Total collected =	\$963.68
Total deposited =	\$963.68

Rattlesnake Brad

November Board Minutes

I regret that we still do not have the November board minutes to publish in the Highgrader. Our secretary, for whatever reason, has again failed to send them to me for publishing. Maybe next month.

R.B

Motion to amend the by-Laws

January 2, 2001

FROM: Willie Biron

TO: Gold Searchers of S.N. Inc.
SUBJECT: Motion to amend the by-Laws of the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada

Submitted in accordance with article 8 of the GSSN by-laws.

Members:

Argument for passage:

The by-laws have not been reviewed for several years, and there is a need to clarify who is a member and can vote. For example the rules state a member is a married couple each having a vote but what about the significant other. There are more than one such example where a non married person has become a club officer, without legal membership. Adding significant other would correct this. Also in keeping track of memberships where do you place the name of the non-married spouse? With the paying member, or separately? If separately, they would have to be somehow tied together which becomes unmanageable.

There is also a need to create an incentive to serving our organization which now approaches 500 members. A good way to do this is to exempt certain positions from dues during their tenure. I also feel that the president being the most responsible and taxing position in our club should have a lifetime membership but only after serving two full terms. In order to transact business, a quorum must be present. The present by-laws state that 20% of the membership must be present. Since it is not explained what constitutes an active member for this purpose, I would assume that with a membership of 500, that would mean approximately 1000 members if you count the spouse as stipulated standing rules. This would mean that at least 200 members must be present at the meeting to conduct business. Everyone knows that we have only about 110 at each meeting. This change would bring the count to

10% to more closely match those that attend meetings and also clarify which active member to count for a Quorum.

It also provides for publishing a notice in the Highgrader when a quorum was not present to allow a vote at the next general meeting regardless of the number present.

Proposed Amendments / changes to Standing Rules

Article 3: Membership

C. *add* "see standing rules"

Article 4 Meetings and Quorum

A. *Change to read* "There will be at least 1 (one) General Meeting each month. The December meeting may also be held jointly with the Christmas party."

C. *Change to read* "For the transaction of business, there must be at least 10% of the active members present at the time of the meeting. *The Spouse and prime member counting as 1 member although both have a vote. This will constitute a Quorum for the purposes of transacting business. The Membership chairman will verify at the meeting from the sign in sheet whether or not there is a Quorum and inform the president before the meeting begins. Should a Quorum not be present, there will be no transaction of business, instead a notice will be placed in the highgrader and the old business will be transacted at the next general meeting after publication in the Highgrader. Should a Quorum still not materialize, The members present will rule*"

MEMBERSHIP:

A. A member is one person, a married couple *or significant other*, each having one vote; the children have no vote.

B. A complimentary 1 year membership may be given by the Executive Committee under extraordinary circumstances.

C. To become a member the appli-

(Continued on page 5).....see BY-LAWS

Meetings

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OUR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS HELD AT NEVADA PALACE HOTEL & CASINO 2ND FLOOR LOCATED AT 5255 S. BOULDER HIGHWAY, LAS VEGAS, NV ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM ALL GUEST AND PROSPECTORS ARE WELCOMED. THE MAP TO THIS LOCATION IS LOCATED IN THE REAR OF THIS PUBLICATION.

GSSN BOARD MEETING

GSSN BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE VALLEY VISTA MOBILE HOME PARK RE BUILDING ON CABANA DRIVE, MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. TAKE DESERT INN TO CABANA AND TURN LEFT GO 1/4 MILE AND TURN LEFT INTO VALLEY VISTA MOBILE HOME PARK. REC BLDG. IS ON LEFT JUST INSIDE GATE.

CLAIM'S COMMITTEE MEETING

CLAIM'S COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE VALLEY VISTA MOBILE HOME PARK. THE MEETINGS ARE AT 8:00 PM. THIS MEETING IS THE SAME LOCATION AS THE BOARD MEETING AND ON THE SAME NIGHT.

THE CLUB'S PHONE
NUMBER: 393-GOLD (4653)

PLEASE CALL TO GET HELP
ON ANY MATTER.

THIS IS YOUR CLUB.

PLEASE WRITE THE

CLUB WITH

ANY COMPLAINTS

OR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Gold Searchers "Code of Ethics"

1. Before searching/prospecting public sites or lands, always check on laws, ordinances or regulations that may govern your search.
2. NEVER Trespass. Always get permission when searching/prospecting private property or claims.
3. Never leave open holes. Try to leave the area as it was. Fill in and/or level your prospect holes and piles. Leave protected flora and fauna alone. **NOTE: Anyone caught not filling holes, will be banned from club claims.**
4. Report the discovery of any item of significant historical value to the local historian or museum.
5. If you discover live ammo, explosives, or a lethal object, DON'T touch it. Mark the site and notify the Police at once.
6. Be polite and informative to those who inquire about your club/sport/hobby. You are an ambassador of our club and a pastime we want to protect and we will be judged by how we act and respond.
7. Do not litter. Pick up your trash and some extra, please.

MOVING

Planning a move, please send us your new address as soon as possible. You may either send it to clubs address, or send it via e-mail to:

RattlesnakeBrad1@a

Don't put it off, do it today, so you will not miss any issues of the
HIGHGRADER

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL PLEASE

Your e-mail is very important to us, as well as you. On occasion, events, happenings, impromptu outings, reminders, etc. come up and if we have your e-mail we can get the info to you immediately, so you can participate in whatever the event might be. We simply cannot call all 500 or so members. You will not get needless e-mail from us, only information and reminders of upcoming events. **YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WILL NOT BE SOLD OR GIVEN TO ANYONE.** Don't miss out on these reminders and announcements of upcoming events. If you wish to be included in being reminded of planned events, as well as notified of impromptu events, please send an e-mail to RattlesnakeBrad, with the following message. Add my e-mail to your list for reminders of all upcoming events. Send to: RattlesnakeBrad1@aol.com
PS don't forget the (1) at end of name, Thank You

(Continued from page 4)...**BY-LAWS**
cant must be 18 (eighteen) years old or older, *complete and sign a hold harmless agreement application.*

D. There are three kinds of membership; Honorary, Regular, and Complimentary.

(1) An Honorary membership is one accorded to a member who has served as President for at least two (2) full terms and is good for life, with waiver of dues.

(2) A Regular membership is that accorded any person who completes an application and pays the dues set by the Executive committee. Membership will cease 30 days after the renewal date unless renewed.

(3) A complimentary membership may be given under extraordinary circumstances by the Executive Committee provided a motion is made, passed and made a part of the board minutes. This type of membership will have a starting and ending date. Additionally, all members appointed to the position of Chairman of a standing committee will have their dues waived while holding that position.

E. The Executive Committee may dissolve committees at any time and appoint another to that position. Failure to produce the results desired of the committee by the Board would be sufficient cause to replace that Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted

Willie Biron

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

**WEAR YOUR MEMBERSHIP
BADGE AND INCREASE YOUR
CHANCES TO BE A WINNER IN
OUR RAFFLE.**

Door prize tickets are \$1.00 each, but if you are wearing your GSSN Membership Badge you will get 2 for \$1.00

No Name Tag
\$1.00 each
No Exceptions

Here is the March
door prizes for
your consideration.

1. 10x prospectors loop w/ metal cover
2. Keene Classifier 1/2"
3. Gold Pan, 10" Finishing
4. Gold Pan 14"
5. Gold Concentrates Bag
6. Suction tweezers
7. Pendant w/chain 13mm for flakes
8. Ultra Violet light Long wave
9. Plastic scoop
10. Lots of gold nuggets up to five grams

Strengthening America

Gold has been good to America. This ancient metal, the first used by man and still prized above all others, today plays a more vital role in the life and health of our nation than ever before.

Gold has become essential in today's high tech world. It ensures the proper functioning of the most sensitive electronic instruments. In national defense, in telecommunications. In advanced biomedical research. In many other ways that ensure our health and safety at home, at work, on the road and in the air.

The Pentagon specifies gold for critical instruments that may make the difference between life and death. Gold circuitry helped save the life of Air Force Captain Scoff O'Grady when his plane was shot from the skies over Bosnia last year. NASA specifies gold for sensitive spacecraft instruments to ensure the safety of astronauts. Air traffic controllers depend on gold for the flawless operation of radar equipment around the clock.

On our nation's roads, hundreds of lives are saved and thousands of serious injuries prevented each year by the gold circuits in electronic sensors that ensure airbags operate without fail.

Gold is used in all these technologies because of its unmatched reliability. It is not affected by extremes of heat, cold or damp. It does not rust, tarnish or corrode. It remains a superior conductor of electricity under all circumstances. It is amazingly flexible. And it is virtually indestructible.

Gold has been good to Amer-

ica in many other ways. The extraction of gold from other Wise barren rock formations has created tens of thousands of well-paid jobs, not only in the West but in 46 other states that make the modern equipment needed to find and extract gold more efficiently more precisely, and with less disturbance to the natural environment. For every million dollars worth of gold produced, the local economy grows by nearly \$2 million and household earnings increase over \$500,000.

Gold has been especially good to our national economy. As recently as 1980, most of our gold had to be imported. Today, because of new technologies, we are able to produce domestically all the gold needed for defense, communications, aviation, medical research, computers, automobile safety and other important applications.

Gold also generates billions of dollars of income for other industries throughout the United States. Each year, gold production contributes hundreds of millions in state and local taxes to fund roads, schools, hospitals, universities and other facilities. It also provides over \$600 million a year to the federal treasury. And it strengthens America's balance of trade by providing over \$1.5 billion a year in export&

The development of our modern, high-tech gold industry is an American success story. It has made our country stronger, more independent, more competitive in the global marketplace. And in many unseen ways, it has made life boner, healthier and safer for millions of people here and throughout the world.

✕

America's gold industry

The Gold Institute 1112 Sixteenth Street NW Washington DC 20036

LETTERS

We like to receive

I belong to several clubs through the western US, some relatively inexpensive like this one and others that cost considerably more for a life membership. The "HIGHGRADER" newsletter/newspaper is by far the most informative and complete one I receive. The LDMA puts out a single type written page each month which is more advertising than it is informative, and this is not an inexpensive club to belong to. I know it takes a lot of time and effort to put out the "HIGHGRADER" each month and all members should be grateful, keep up the great work.

JH — Dewey, AZ

I want to thank you so much for the January Highgrader. I must say, it is the best club newsletter I have seen. I enjoyed the articles and all the information it contained. I will be sending you a membership application soon.

I have been gold detecting for about 6 years and will be retiring shortly, so I need to begin making more contacts, in order that I may more actively pursue the hobby that gives me so much fun. Again, thank you for the newsletter.

GL - Boise, ID

Thanks to you and your club for monthly contact. Nice to have news of the club I have had interest in for 16 years. My activity was slowed down when I had a knee replaced in 1994 & 1995 to. Found my ability to stay "upright" walking in the rough hill-sides and brush difficult. My age required that I be by my children and Loma Linda hospital services. We have been moved to Hemet, CA. I have had interest and activity in Holcom Valley—out of Big Bear, CA. Most interesting how much gold has been removed from here. An interesting history.

I want to keep my membership in the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada. The R— will have our proxy if needed at any time. Best wishes to all in service they can be to the community. I have enjoyed my years in the club.

D.S. — Hemet, CA

NOTICE — WARNING

The volunteers that run this club have more to do than chase after members to renew on time. Therefore starting with those whose dues are due on or before April 1, 2001, if your dues are not received within 30 days of your due date, **you will be automatically dropped from our database and will have to rejoin as a new member to get back in club.** We are sorry to have to do this, but we are now too big to have to worry about those who procrastinate about paying their dues. Your renewal date is on every issue of the Highgrader and you get one renewal notice by mail approximately 30 days before your due date. Dues are due **on or before your renewal date.** You simply have to take the responsibility for yourself. If you know you will be gone at the time your dues are due, send them in a little early so you don't have to worry about losing your membership. If you are moving, be sure and get an address change sent in.

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Flab Warnings

If you're a middle-aged man, here's what will happen if you don't exercise enough.

According to the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, researchers from the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School studied the muscle strength of 12 sedentary men in their early 60s.

The same men were invited back for another exam 12 years later. Here's what the comparison found:

Knee strength had declined 20 percent to 30 percent. Thigh muscles were about 15 percent smaller. Muscle fibers had dropped by about 20 percent.

"Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you say. Best friends listen to what you don't say."

A PROSPECTING RADIO SHOW ON THE INTERNET

Hey y'all, I'm Bugler of Bugler's Shack. I will be starting a Radio Station on the Internet that will cover Treasure Hunting, Metal Detecting and Prospecting. It will start on Feb 12 at 8 to 9 PM EST. You will be able to listen to Bugler's Shack on your computer. Just go to www.miners_mall.com/bugler and read all about it and click on Listen to hear the Show. E-mail me your idea for special guest to be interviewed live on the show.



The Choice Of Professionals The World Over

Minelab **GP Extreme** is now available, with up to 55% more depth than the SD series detectors.

Call "Rattlesnake Brad" at FINE DETECTORS to talk about GOLD or to inquire about detectors.

Call 702-451-0828

E-mail RattlesnakeBrad1@aol.com

An authorized Minelab dealer

NMA Seeks Mining Rules Injunction

National Mining Association (NMA) "Midnight regulation" defies standing orders from Congress, will cost America thousands of jobs

Washington—In an attempt to curtail the continuing assault on American mining employees, families, companies and their communities, the National Mining Association today asked the District of Columbia Federal District Court to delay implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) new 3809 surface mining regulations.

"The BLM has blatantly disregarded guidance from the National Academy of Sciences, and in doing so, defied standing instructions from Congress," said NMA President and CEO Jack N. Gerard. "It is appalling that the BLM would knowingly promulgate these rules for no real benefit when so many jobs are at stake."

By BLM's own admission, the new rules will cause decreased mineral production worth up to \$877 million, which would result in a loss of up to 6,050 jobs.

"This unlawful regulatory proposal represents this Administration's eleventh hour effort to dismantle the domestic hardrock mining industry. Mining companies, communities, families, and individuals in the rural economies of the West that depend upon this vital, basic industry will pay the price for these irresponsible proposals," said Gerard.

Under the Administrative Procedure Act, the court has authority to stay final agency action pending judicial review.

According to the NMA petition, the new rules are unlawful because:

The new rules are inconsistent with the recommendations of the NAS Study and, thus violate the 2001 Interior Appropriations Act which contains language prohibiting the promulgation of any revisions to the existing 3809 rules, unless those revisions are "not inconsistent with" the NAS Study's recommendations.

The new 3809 Regulations include many unlawful provisions, including a newly added "mine veto" provision that gives BLM power to shut down operations that the agency may deem cannot meet certain standards. Additionally, the "mine veto" provision was not in the proposed rule and the public was given no notice of this provision and no opportunity to comment. "The BLM has conferred upon itself authority and jurisdiction that Congress never granted or considered granting. These new rules presume BLM can prevent and close down

mining almost at whim," explained Gerard.

"The 'mine veto' provision in particular will deter any future investment or exploration investment opportunities," explained Gerard. "The disruption in investment confidence from this provision _ let alone the cost of any mining activity shut down as a result _ will have immediate and significant impacts on the hardrock mining industry."

The new rules, scheduled to go into effect January 20, 2001, were issued by BLM despite strong opposition by the Western Governors Association and conflicts with many of the recommendations of a Congressionally mandated National Academy of Sciences study.

"We are at a loss as to how the BLM can ignore the comments and information provided by so many independent parties," said Gerard. "We urge the court to remedy these outrageous actions."

The U.S. mining industry produces coal, metals, building materials, and many other essential minerals that define the daily lives of 267 million Americans. The mining industry generates over \$500 billion in total economic benefit each year and helps to sustain nearly 5 million U.S. jobs. ✕

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer can be as deadly a disease among men as breast cancer is among women. And some of the risk factors for it may surprise you.

The Department of Community Medicine and General Practice at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology studied the risk factors and found two unlikely candidates, according to the *British Journal of Cancer*. Divorced men have a higher risk than married men, and the risk of prostate cancer is greater among men with higher socio-economic status, larger incomes and more education.

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

3809 CHRONOLOGY

January 6, 1997 Secretary Babbitt directs Assistant Secretary, Land & Minerals (Bob Armstrong) and Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management (Sylvia Baca) to begin a "rulemaking process by preparing and publishing proposed regulations" to alter the existing surface management regulations. (43 CFR 3809; "3809 regulations")

February 6, 1997 Armstrong & Baca reports to Secretary Babbitt that they had created a Regulatory Task Force and a NEPA team to undertake the 3809 revisions.

February 28, 1997 Western Governors' Association letter to Sylvia Baca from Mike Long (CO Div of Minerals), Dianne Nielson (UT DEQ) and Russ Fields (NV Div of Minerals) offering to meet with BLM officials in advance of their officially restarting the 3809 rulemaking.

June 24, 1997 Western Governors' Association adopts a resolution expressing their interest in being involved in the process. *Public land Governors still feel DOI is not considering the state issues.*

July 18, 1997 At the request of Nevada Governor Bob Miller, Senator Reid offers an amendment imposing mandatory consultation between the DOI and western state governments.

September 12, 1997 Nine western governors (NV; UT; ID; MT; NM; ND; WY; AZ; AK) send letters showing support for the amendment offered by Senator Reid requiring DOI to consult with affected states in the rulemaking process.

September 17, 1997 Congress amends original language calling for mandatory consultation by agreeing to language from Senator Bumpers which would require the Secretary of Interior to certify that he "has consulted with the governor" in each State that contains public lands and prohibits publication of proposed rules before November 15, 1998.

November 14, 1997 President signs into law the Interior Appropriations FY'98 bill.

November 17, 1997 Three days after President Clinton signs the Interior Appropriations FY'98 bill into law BLM Director Pat Shea sends letter to Congress "certifying" that the consultation requirement has been met. *Contrary to BLM Director Shea's certification of consultation, Western Governors still feel they are not being consulted in a meaningful way.*

January 16, 1998 Western Governors' Association sends a letter to President Clinton stating ".....we have hoped Interior would consult with us and keep us involved
See 3809.....(Continued on page 17)

Gary Benson Tells Us Of His Gold Find

It was going to be a beautiful day Sunday according to the weatherman so I called a couple of friends of mine that told me they are interested in joining the Goldsearchers and asked them if they would be interested in going out to Pahrump and be my guest for the day on our claim out there. They were excited about the idea of finding some gold and readily agreed to join me for a day of prospecting. We made it out to the claim about 10 AM and we started looking for some likely spots to detect and dry-wash. Dave and I found a spot in

Dave to just shovel off the first few inches to process through the dry-washer and when he had enough of a fine tailing pile built up to run that material through the machine again.

I took off up the side of the wash swinging my Goldmaster coil low and slow. After only about a half an hour I got a good strong signal right under a small cactus. At first I was a bit skeptical because I've got signals before by cactus only there was no metal target to be found. But this one was repeatable and sounded to good to

pass up. After about 3 inches of digging I had the target out of the hole. When I finally found the small target that was giving the signal and held it in my hand I knew it was gold or lead

the wash that I thought looked good to try some drywashing. After setting up the drywasher I went back to the truck to get the detectors. Dave's wife Joanie wanted to try and do some detecting so I showed her how to use my Minelab XT 18000, knowing that she would have a much easier time using this machine than my manual ground balance Goldmaster V/SAT. Joanie started walking down the wash searching with the Minelab.

I grabbed the Goldmaster and went down to see how Dave was doing drywashing. Although the ground looked dry it was damp only a few inches down so I told

by the weight of it. I rubbed a little dirt from it and saw a hint of yellow and I knew it was a nugget. I called Dave and Joanie over and I think they were more excited than me! Well that was the only one we found that day and even if we hadn't found it we still would have had a great time, it's really beautiful country out there. I gave Dave and Joanie an application for the club when we got home. I'm sure we'll have two new members in the near future. I think that little nugget has friends out there waiting for us all to find!

Your fellow Goldsearcher
Gary Benson



DID YOU GIVE US AN E-MAIL, BUT HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY EMAILS FROM US? I HAVE SENT OUT 3 OR 4 EMAILS TO THE LIST I HAVE, BUT GET SEVERAL RETURNED AS, NO SUCH ADDRESS, UNDELIVERABLE, ETC.

If you have given me your email, but have not received any club emails, please send me a short message so I will have your correct email address, if you change your email address, send me a notice about that as well.

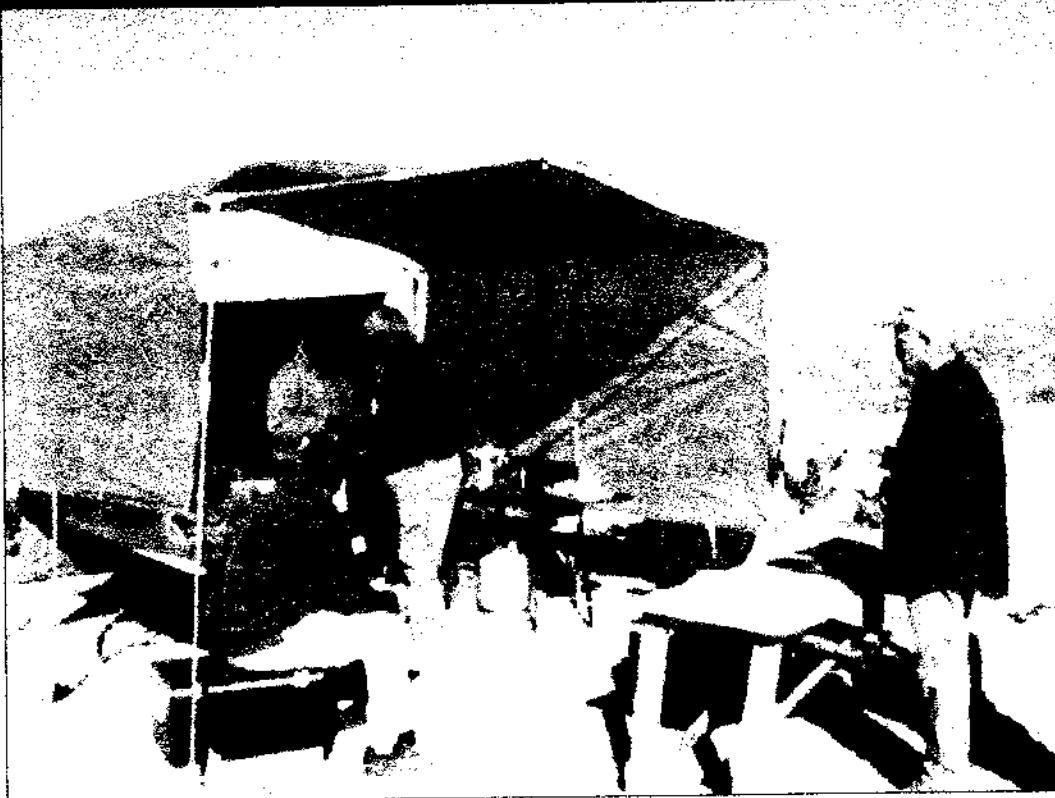
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OUTING PICS JAN 20-21



Outings chairman, George Neiderriter, brought the clubs tent and cooking equipment to this outing.

He cooked up some tube steaks, and had potato salad to go with it.

Mary Prohaska and Yvonne Fine mixed some cans of beans and chilli and Mary heated them in her motorhome.

Yvonne also brought a sheet cake for those with a sweet tooth.

The rickety old table you see in front of the tent was carefully made by Willie from some scrape lumber brought out to use for a evening fire. It worked!!

With the serving of the chow, everyone served themselves and then looked for a chair to eat and relax. Note how the beautification process of our five acres has started with the placing of rocks around some of the desert plants. If we all water the plants with our spare water before leaving, we will keep them all healthy and beautiful. The fire pit Saturday evening came in very handy as it was quite cool. IF anyone has access to scrape wood for use in the fire pit please bring it out when you come. All total about 20 to 24 people showed up for the outing.





BIGGEST WILLIE OUTING ANNOUNCEMENT

If you have attended the last two Willie outings, they were great and all had a heck of a time. There were prizes, auctions, sing along, gold finding demonstrations, plenty of food, vendors to get gold finding stuff from, the list goes on and on. There were people who came from as far away as Texas. *Check out the pictures on our website*

I am presently working up a schedule of activities and developing ideas which I hope will result in the **BIGGEST** and best outing of all, so you need to vacate your calendar and enter

APRIL 20, 21 and 22

as the must get out and have fun weekend of the year 2001.



I will need a lot of help to pull this off, so if you can help let me know. Good ideas on events to hold will always be welcomed. If you cant help, and just want to come out and relax and have fun, that's great also. More details will appear in the Highgrader.

As always I plan to not charge members YES ITS ALL **FREE**. So you have no excuse not to attend. This was made possible in the past by having an auction around the campfire of items members and vendors donated.(last year we had many items including a drywasher). Since this worked so well we will do it again.

I presently have a few items which I will auction off at the next meetings, this should help us get started and I hope enough can be collected to cover the food and prizes. The menu is undecided at this time, it could be Top Sirloin Steaks again, a fish fry, a pot luck or a combination. I will need the following:

PLENTY OF FIREWOOD This can be hauled out anytime and stored at our 5 acre lot.

Someone to hold a drywashing seminar.

Someone to hold metal detector classes.

Someone to bring the clubs amplifier, speakers, wireless mike to the campfire, and set it up.

Someone to set up at least 2 metal detector treasure hunts.

A food committee. Duties will be to get, bring out, and prepare food for Saturday afternoon, and the Sunday Brunch.

Someone to tow our club trailer to and from the site.

Someone to set up and take down the portable Johnnies.

Someone to man the hospitality tent and get everyone checked in.

Also put up signs so we can all find the place.

Someone to conduct a map reading class, and demonstrate how a gps works.

An Auctioneer and master of ceremonies.

Entertainers Dan Boon volunteered to play the banjo. The entertainer of the evening wins a prize so now is the time to prepare. How about a magic show? Like last time!

As you can see there is a lot to do, but most of all we need you there or it wont be any fun.

Plan to come out early. If you can only come out for Saturday you wont regret it.

Willie you can contact me via e-mail wbron@goldsearcher.com

Quoting Scripture

A lady surprised a burglar in her kitchen. He was all loaded down with the things he was going to steal. She had no weapon and was all alone. The only thing that she could think to do was quote scripture. So, she held up a hand and said, "ACTS 2:38!"

The burglar quaked in fear and then froze to the point that she was able to get to the phone and call 911.

When the police arrived, the burglar was still frozen in place. They were very much surprised that a woman alone, with no weapon, could capture an imposing looking burglar.

One of them asked the woman, "How did you do this?" The woman replied, "I quoted scripture."

The officer turned to the burglar and asked, "What was it about the scripture that had such an effect on you?"

The burglar replied, Scripture! What scripture? I thought she said she had an axe and two 38's!!!!

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Check Out This Gold

David Schmieder, the gentleman that has leased us the five acres, had bought himself a new Minelab GP Extreme a couple weeks back.

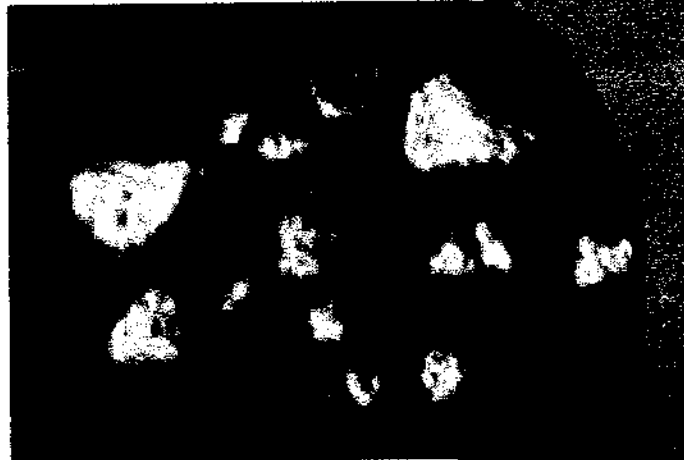
The first time I saw him after he bought it, he was complaining it wouldn't find any gold. THEN he WALKED over the GOLD and the GP found it quite easily.

Now he's singing a different tune as he keeps adding to his stash of gold nuggets.

It takes perseverance to find the gold and there still is much gold out there to be found. Really

makes me drool, how about you? So far he has found over 4 ounces, the larger two in picture are about one and a quarter ounces each.

R.B



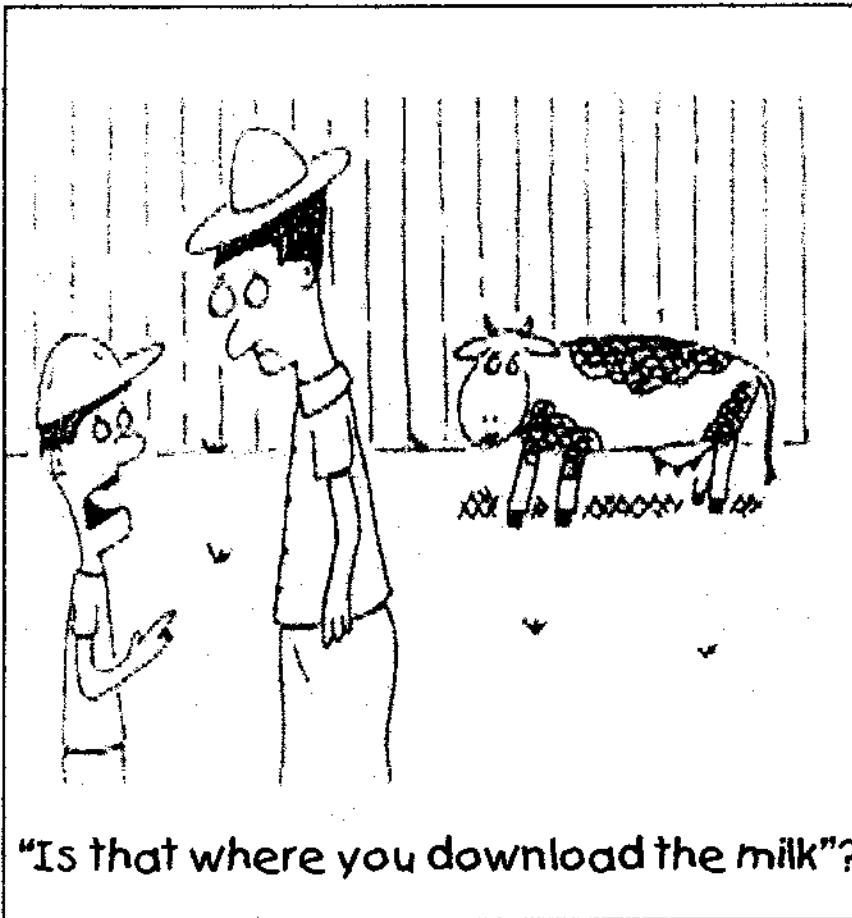
"Chucks Gold Trapper" Revolutionary Hand Dredge

See field test report in April 8, WEGM Newsletter.

This sand pump actually really works. It has a diaphragm check valve built into the bottom cap. This allows you to suck up sand and gold under a rock in a stream and transport it to a bucket or sluice without losing any of your sample. It will suck sample out of a three feet deep hole and lose any of your gold. I also have a crevice tool attachment for the bottom that will allow you to suck up gold out of bedrock crevices under water or extend the "GOLD TRAPPER" from 3 4 1/2 feet. 100% satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. I will guarantee the workmanship and materials of the "GOLD TRAPPER" (used under normal use) for one year.

"GOLD TRAPPER" \$30.00, Crevice tool/Extension \$10.00, S/H \$10.00
Chuck Cummins, 970-686-2238 or E-Mail: Chuck2238@aol.com

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06/2001

Free Tickets

Did you find your name in this month's HIGHGRADER? If so, you are a winner of 7 free Door prize raffle tickets!!!! There are 5 names hidden throughout the newsletter. (NOTE: when both husband wife names appear together, it is considered to be just one name.) This is what you do. Locate your name in the Highgrader. It will look like this

Smith, John

And can be anywhere. Circle it and take it with you to the next meeting. Locate the person selling tickets that evening and tell him, "Guess what, my name is in the Highgrader, (show him your name) as a winner of seven free door prize tickets. You will then receive the seven Free tickets and you may well win one of the many door prize items to be given away that evening.

What a deal, and it's free to you, those whose names appear in the HIGHGRADER

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Ethel Berry Across the Chilkoot Pass

Clarence had spent much of his time scouting around the country looking for dogs to be used on the sleds. The main thing was to have them large and strong. He picked up some especially good ones. The front had a leader and eight dogs in double harness. Clarence manned this sled, which carried the provisions, dried fish for the dogs, the chuck box, and so forth. On the second sled were the tent, the bedding, and bags and coats. If there was a stiff breeze blowing, we used the sail and could ride on the sled ourselves; but we could not add our weight if the dogs were pulling.

A great many lakes were grouped together, and we wove about, taking the one that looked safest for travel. There was Lake Atlas, Lake Tagish, and Lake Marsh, with small streams that carried the same names. We were up at dawn, cooked our breakfast, and were on our way, trudging mile after mile and resting only when it became too dark to travel. It was bitterly cold. The lakes were frozen to a depth of six or eight feet, and snow was everywhere. Even with all of our running and our heavy stockings, our feet would get so cold at times that we could go no further. All the dogs wore shoes made of several thicknesses of burlap tied around the ankle, but it would be only a short time until the sharp ice cut through the shoe to the foot. Then the dog would whine, and C.J. would say: "All right, old boy; I'll have you fixed up in no time." Then we would stop and put new shoes on any of them that needed it.

Whenever we pitched camp, each fellow had his share of the work; while one brought the tent, another took up the chuck box. Supper was to be cooked, boughs were to be cut for the beds, and the dogs were to be fed and bedded. If the lakes were too wide, we had no boughs for our beds. We traveled this way for several days, excepting to reach open water on the Yukon, where we could sail our boat.

After one of our longest and most tiring days, when we were dead tired from running and walking for miles, of course an accident would happen. We had pitched camp on the ice, our stove was set up, and supper was on the fire. Ethel had made corn bread and put it in the oven. I had fried the bacon

and made a big pan of gravy. The boys had finished their work and were waiting for food, so that they could turn in for the night. Without warning the stove pitched over on its side, upsetting corn bread, gravy, and everything else in the snow. The stove was so thin that the heat had melted the ice from under it, causing it to tip. There was nothing we could do but cook another dinner. I thought Charlie had a grand disposition, but that night he just went to pieces; he swore and refused to do his part. He said he wouldn't cook another meal if he never ate again, then left, and went to bed. His action was such a complete surprise to us that we looked at each other and couldn't speak. Then it struck us as funny, and we all began to laugh, telling each other that we didn't know he was like that. But Pa Berry made excuses for him, saying that the day had been long, and that he would be all right in the morning, and asking us not to give his bad temper any more thought. Poie (as we called Pa Berry) then offered to do Charlie's share. Poie was a dear, with the sweetest nature of anyone I ever knew. If ever you are in doubt about a friend, take him on a camping trip and you will never again have to wonder what your friend is like, for in three weeks you will know more about him than you learn in years.

Frank and Henry Berry were at the mines, as they had gone in the year before. I wish I could write about their trip, as they were such an odd pair. Both were lazy, but Frank was droll and full of wit. Henry could always get out of work in some manner. The last news we had heard of them was from a man who had met them on the trail. They had tied a few tins to their coat buttons by strings, and were struggling with a great big cheese. They had sold or discarded one thing after another to lighten their load, but they hung onto the cheese. It was to be their fortune. They knew nobody would have cheese, and they were planning to sell it at a dollar a pound.

As we neared the Yukon, the weather turned warmer and the ice got softer. We noticed little trees set up, and

when we came nearer we saw a sign reading: "Thin ice; follow trees." Several times, while on Lake La-Barge, C.J. scouted ahead of us to test the

ice and look for danger. In one place a little island or rock was sticking up through the ice, and the question was whether we should go on this or the other side of the rock. We hugged the shore more closely each day. As there was constant danger of the ice breaking, we carried long poles; in case we should find thin ice the poles would prevent us from going through.

The boys were mushing the dogs; as they had been going fast, Ethel and I were quite a distance back. When C.J. halted the sleds to wait for us, he noticed that the runner was in water. Oh, boy! They used the whip on the dogs and worked like mad to keep the sleds moving. When Ethel felt the ice waving, she stopped, which was the worst thing she could do. Clarence looked back to see if we had noticed what was wrong with the sleds, and then Ethel called out: "Oh, Patty!" He couldn't leave the dogs and the sleds to come to her aid, and so he yelled: "For God's sake, Ethel, RUN!" When I heard that, I grabbed Ethel by the hand, and we ran! It was like being on the ocean, but the ice did not open. We thanked our stars when we got through with our outfits, but C.J. had been frightened for all of us. Had he left the sleds for a minute, the would all have been lost as, when the ice is in that condition and a dead weight rests on it, the ice gently opens, everything goes through, and the gap closes. That very afternoon a man with his dogs and his loaded sled went through in another place, but we did not hear of his misfortune until the next day. The ice was breaking up and beginning to move. We fought the mud and cakes of ice, sometimes in it to our waists. Then we had to leave the lake and trudge around and through melted snow and wet moss. Swiftwater Bill, a Klondyke character, was just ahead of us. His lady, dressed in fine furs, had to be carried, but we did not wait to be helped and made our way as best we could.

We were at last on the Yukon River, with great ice cakes rushing by. Ever so often we could hear a resounding crash as the huge cakes came to-

The drawing for the Minelab Musketeer Colt will be at the March meeting, as all tickets are now sold. Come on out and see who the lucky winner is, maybe it will be you!!

gether, piled in tall pyramids, and then went floating away.

For the first time on our journey we were going to sleep in a roadhouse. We should not have to cut boughs for our beds, nor should we have to cook supper! What fun and what a relief! Now I should be able to see the people who lived in Alaska and the ones who were hired for the entertainment of the chuchacos [newcomers].

When we pulled in we found plenty of travelers ahead of us. Dogs and sleds cluttered the outside. The place was alive with people, and we could hear tinpan music and many voices inside. I was terribly excited as it all looked so gay, but C.J. rushed us across the floor to the stairs and right up to our rooms. We didn't see a thing! It was maddening, and for the first time since leaving home, I wanted to cry.

Our rooms were very small, with the barest of furniture: the usual pitcher and bowl on a stand, a bed, and a chair. The partitions were so thin that we had to speak in whispers so as not to be heard in the next room. That suited me, as I could hear more if everybody kept still. C.J. told me to stay in my room and not to talk to anyone. I pleaded with him to let me go down and see everything, but he said I should have to wait until he looked the place over, as there were a lot of tough hombres on the trail. I consoled myself with the thought that he would have to take us down to eat, as we had no food in the rooms. I could hear the glasses clinking on the bar, the roulette whizzing, and the poker chips rolling on the smooth tables, and I thought: "Will C.J. ever come and take us out of here?" As soon as he did come I said: "Oh, I'm so hungry, C.J. Can't we go downstairs now and eat?" "No," he said; "the crowd down there is too rough and the men are all drinking. I have had them send our dinner up here." So they brought beans and bacon upstairs to us, and we ate on a rickety little table. After an hour or so we went to bed.



Bad Boy Babbitt

The following is a statement from Jack N. Gerard, President and CEO of the National Mining Association in response to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's decision to deny a permit to California's Imperial Project of Glamis Gold, Inc:

"The National Mining Association is outraged at Secretary Babbitt's abuse of authority in denying the Glamis project. Bruce Babbitt has accomplished another item on his lengthy personal wish-list of extremist, anti-mining actions. In the past 30 days alone, we have seen an unnecessary and costly rewrite of hardrock mining rules and an ill-conceived roadless plan which denies public access to over 59 million acres of public lands. "Secretary Babbitt has long urged Congress to change the law to create 'a process..... for determining that mining activity does not occur on lands that.....have.....values for other uses.' When Congress did not support Babbitt's extreme proposals, the Secretary deceitfully twisted the law to further his own personal agenda.

"Babbitt is denying Imperial County, California - one of California's most economically depressed counties - hundreds of well-paying jobs and millions of dollars in economic benefit. This continued abuse of power is unforgivable in our democratic society."



FEB OUTING NEWS !
By Daniel Green

It was a pleasure and a treat to visit the February 17 outing. A lot of fresh new faces were there to get their share of the GOLD. They came from a number of far away States and a few from here at home. Some of our regular 'old time members where there too. It was nice to see the joy of discovery when good size nuggets were uncovered. It could be compared to the excitement of an Easter egg hunt !

An example of the good will was made by Ken Wright. Ken saw a couple of members who had not done as well as some of the others. Having made his quota for the day, Ken dropped a nugget behind the two of them. His invitation to, "finders_ keepers" was enough to get them excited again. They took turns searching that area until they found the nugget. "Nice going, Ken" That is the spirit of the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada.

The ladies that were present were pleased and surprised at the "portable comfort stations" they found on our new camping site. A big Thank You to whoever supplied these. I understand they will be back for the next outing as well. Your time and effort is appreciated!

For those that were busy at other locations, SORRY ! You missed a good one this time.

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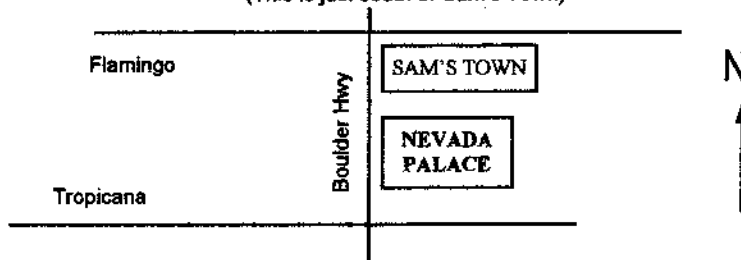
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APPLICATION TO:
GOLD SEARCHERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, INC.

(Important Notice - Please Read Carefully)

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

TO BE COMPLETED INITIALLY AND UPON EACH RENEWAL DATE.

THIS DOCUMENT IS TO BE RETAINED IN THE GSSN FILES UNTIL RECINDED.

I/We, the undersigned, (herein after referred to as participant) assume all risk and/or hazards associated with participant's involvement in the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Inc, a Prospecting Club. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless all Club Officers, Sponsors and/or other third, fourth, fifth, etc. parties involved in club activities. Participant realizes that metal detecting, gold prospecting and associated activities can be dangerous. The terrain can be hazardous, and there may be wild and domestic animals and snakes present. Some locations may have open shafts, pits and tunnels. Some area may be suitable for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Participant assumes full responsibility for any injury, loss or liability which may result or be alleged to have resulted from involvement in these activities. This includes, but is not limited to, loss of life, limb and sight. Loss and liability is also accepted for, but not limited to metal detectors, mining equipment, pets and vehicles. This agreement includes the trip to and from the actual location of Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Inc., Properties or claims. In case of injury or sudden illness, Participant hereby gives authorization to any hospital, Doctor or emergency personnel to render immediate emergency aid as may be required at the time for Participant's health and safety. It is understood by Participant that the expense of this service is accepted by Participant.

This document applies to any and all activities while on Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada Inc, properties or claims in which Participant is involved. It applies not only to the date of Signature, but to any and all future dates. This document will be in effect until and unless written revocation is received.

NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

Please print clearly

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I/we will volunteer to help in the following areas, please check at least one.

Outings committee _____ Food committee _____ Claims committee _____ Education committee _____ Club property _____

Public relations _____ Newsletter committee _____ Mc Caw School _____ Other help as needed _____

Send This Application To: Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada, PO Box 96732, Las Vegas, NV 89193-6732
 or bring to any meeting. For office use below.

New Member Received \$35.00 Check No. _____ If cash check here _____

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(Continued from page 8).....3809

in that regulatory process. So far this has not been the case..... We request that you direct Interior to engage promptly and in good faith in the consultation contemplated by Congress."

April 28, 1998 Governor Miller (D-NV) testifies before the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee stating, "Congress could help us with this impasse by requesting an independent evaluation of the 3809 regulations by a third party such as the NAS," to help resolve the dispute between the Western Governor's and the DOI.

October 1998 Congress adopts language (Interior Appropriations FY99) on a 58-40 bipartisan vote providing \$800,000 for NAS to conduct comprehensive study to determine the adequacy of existing 3809 regulations. Appropriations language required study completion by July 31, 1999 and placed a moratorium on Secretary Babbitt issuing final regulations prior to September 30, 1999.

December 15, 1998 Fifteen Senators (Senators Craig, Murkowski, Bryan, Reid, Thomas, Domenici, Bennett, Hatch, Kyl, Burns, Shelby, Smith (OR), Campbell, Enzi, Nickles) write Secretary Babbitt seeking his cooperation to make sure the NAS study is timely and comprehensive. Furthermore, the Senators encourage the Secretary to wait for the results of the NAS study so the results could be considered prior to promulgating proposed regulations.

January 11, 1999 The Western Governors' Association (Chairman Jim Geringer, Wyoming) writes Secretary Babbitt asking him to "refrain from publishing any proposed changes in the Federal Register until the study is complete....." Setting aside requests from the Western Governors' Association and the aforementioned Senators, Secretary Babbitt states his intention to publish draft regulations.

January 11, 1999 Secretary Babbitt responds to Senators' December 15, 1999 letter saying he must "respectfully disagree" that the rulemaking be delayed until the NAS study is completed and that it is necessary to publish draft mining regulations as soon as practical.

January 29, 1999 Sixteen Senators (Senators Craig, Murkowski, Bryan, Reid, Thomas, Domenici, Burns, Bennett, Gorton, Campbell, Hatch, Shelby, Nickles, Smith (OR), Enzi, Crapo) write Secretary Babbitt recommending a reconsideration of his desire to issue the draft regulations.

February 1, 1999 Chairman Murkowski sends a letter to President Clinton asking the President to ask Secre-

tary Babbitt to withhold the publication of the draft regulations until at least 120 days after completion of the NAS study. (Still waiting on a response)

February 9, 1999 DOI releases the proposed regulations and announces the comment period would be open until May 14, 1999.

February 9, 1999 Secretary Babbitt responds to the January 29th letter saying "I am afraid we must agree to disagree" on whether the DOI should proceed with publication of its rules prior to publication and review of the Congressionally mandated NAS study. DOI takes position that they are under no obligation to provide a public comment period on draft regulations following publication of the NAS study.

February 17, 1999 NAS convenes first committee meeting to receive testimony. DOI Solicitor John Lesly reiterates the Secretary's point in his letter to the Senate that DOI may consider the NAS study as part of the rulemaking process if it is completed on time but they are under no legal obligation.

March 2, 1999 Secretary Babbitt while testifying before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee commented that DOI will proceed with its rulemaking and if they determine the study appropriate they may incorporate.

March 4, 1999 Supplemental Appropriations FY00 contains language providing for at least a 120 day comment period after the NAS report is Submitted.

March 23 through April 27, 1999 BLM holds 15 public hearings on proposed Section 3809 regulations. Over 90 percent of witnesses oppose the regulations with innumerable specific concerns.

May 13 & 14, 1999 Final NAS Study Committee meeting held in Spokane, Washington. Previous public meetings including invited witnesses held in Denver, Colorado (3 days); Reno, Nevada (3 days) and Washington, D.C. (2 days).

May 14, 1999 Public comment period closes on proposed revisions to the Section 3809 Surface Management Regulations and the Draft EIS.

May 21, 1999 President signs Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for FY99 which includes requirement for at least a 120-day comment period on the proposed rules and the Draft EIS after the NAS report is submitted to Congress.

July 31, 1999 NAS Study of Hardrock Mining on federal lands scheduled to be submitted to the Congress and Western governors.

September 29, 1999 NAS Study completed and submitted to Congress and Western Governors. The NAS panel's key findings include: "The existing array of federal and state laws regulating mining is generally effective in protecting the environment" and "Improvements in the implementation of the existing regulations present the greatest opportunity for improving environmental protection and the efficiency of the regulatory process." In spite of the Report's findings and recommendations, the Secretary, publicly announces, he has not changed course.

September 29, 1999 Secretary Babbitt stated: "While we have not had an opportunity to review the report in detail... I view this report... as an endorsement of my decision in January 1997 to complete a process... to revise these regulations."

November 18, 1999 Congress passes H.R. 3194, fiscal year 2000 appropriations for the Department of Interior, which provides that the Secretary may not promulgate final 3809 rules except for those "which are not inconsistent with the recommendations contained in the National Research Council (NRC) report entitled "Hardrock Mining on Federal Lands."

December 8, 1999 Interior Solicitor John Lesly issues and opinion stating that "[r]ules addressing issues that are not covered by the NRC's recommendations would not run afoul of this limitation, since there would be no question of their inconsistency with those recommendations." In other words, the Solicitor says that the Secretary should ignore the limitations provided in the FY 2000 Interior Department appropriations bill and recommendations of the NRC report in promulgating final 3809 rules.

January 11, 2000 The BLM 3809 Task Force meets with representatives of WGA states and are told the WGA supports the NRC report and opposes the 3809 rulemaking. WGA urges BLM to prepare a supplemental draft environmental impact statement that evaluates a rulemaking that addresses only the NRC's recommendations.

February 23, 2000 Final Comment



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period closed on proposed changes to the Section 3809 regulations. Comments were filed by western states, environmental groups and the mining industry.

June 16, 2000 Western Governor's Association adopts resolution reaffirming its prior position that the existing federal-state regulatory regime protects the environment and that any changes should only be in response to the specific recommendations of the September 29, 1999 Congressionally-directed NAS study.

September 21, 2000 House-Senate Conference on FY2001 Interior Appropriations Bill which authorizes the Interior Department to promulgate regulations "not inconsistent with" the NAS study's findings and recommendations.

October 2000 U.S. Department of Interior published its "Environmental Impact Statement" on Surface Management Regulations for Locatable Mineral Operations stating that the new rules would cause decreased mineral production which would result in a loss of up to 6,050 jobs and up to \$877 million in total industry output. The EIS also states that the cost of the new program's implementation and compliance which, according to the EIS, would "require a 35% increase in the current expenditure level, or about \$27 million."

November 21, 2000 The BLM publishes its new 3809 surface mining regulations in the Federal Register. The new rules will go into effect on January 20, 2001, Secretary Babbitt's last day in office.

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December 15, 2000 The National Mining Association files a legal challenge to the BLM's newly promulgated 3809 regulations in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia. "The BLM has blatantly disregarded guidance from the National Academy of Sciences, disobeyed the wishes of the Western Governors and defied standing instructions from Congress," said NMA President and Chief Executive Officer Jack N. Gerard. "Be assured that the National Mining Association will fight in every way and at every point possible to curb these excesses by this overzealous agency."



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