

99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

October 2009

Editor: Mary Lance

Quote of the Month: "It does not require a majority to prevail,
but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."
--Samuel Adams - Leader in our Fight for Independence

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GOLD PRICES:

AS OF : September 30, 2009

Gold \$1007.50

Silver \$ 16.64

OUR WEBSITE:

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

HELLO EVERYONE

Well, here goes nothing. My first attempt at producing a newsletter that gives information and maybe share with you something interesting. Any ideas are welcome from all of you. The club has authorized a prize for the person (or family) that sends me the most usable text for the newsletter. I will keep track and announce the winner.

My name is Mary and for those who don't know, I am married to the "famous breakfast cook", Ric Lance. We have been married for almost 42 years.

I have some ideas I would like to incorporate into this newsletter and would like to hear from you your thoughts and ideas. If you don't think I should include something, let me know and I will consider your opinion. If you do think of something for me to include, remember, it won't go into the newsletter if it stays in your head. My email, phone, and address information is included below so now you have no excuse to not get me articles and ideas. This is your newsletter and should reflect that.

I am looking forward to putting this together.

Mary

Ric and Mary Lance

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phone: 406-892-1810 cell: 406-253-9335

COOLIDGE, MONTANA
BY: VICKY WALBORN

One of the Walborn trips took us to a little ghost town know as Coolidge. We didn't even know that it was there.

Coolidge was a small town created by a ex-politician. It was also located at Montana's final and largest silver development, lasting 2 decades.

The Elk Horn Mining District sits 7,000 to 8,000 foot elevation, where the headwaters of Bannock's Grass Hopper Creek flow. The silver was first found in 1872, there were dozens of mines that ran off and on.

William R. Allen, was Montana's lieutenant governor in 1908, and had worked for Marcus Daly (who was one of the Copper Kings) who founded Coolidge. W.R. Allen quit politics permanently to establish his dream of the "Boston-Montana Development Corporation".

Things really started to move when W.R. got the railroad in. This was when the heavy equipment was able to come in to build the mill and this took 3 years and \$1 Million. The largest silver mill Montana had could process 750 tons of ore daily with a mineral break down of 15% lead, 4% copper, 25-30 ounces of silver and \$3.00-\$4.00 in gold per ton. The Mill, mine, railroad, and town took \$5 million to build what would be \$41.6 million in our money.

The tunneling operations for the mine were started. It was said that the tunnels at Elkhorn showed better return than the mines at Butte. It was also said that some of the rock looked identical to that of Butte, but with higher grade ore.

There were many men working at the camp with a wage of \$3.50 to \$4.75 per day. There were also many more that were living in tents just hoping to get on one of the many building projects

Coolidge at one time had electric lights and telephones, but most of the boarding house was without running water. I remember right along the main street there was this double sitter outhouse. The only store was a company store where you could buy pans, shovels, fur and so on. There were no saloons or churches. The school opened in 1918 with 20 students. It now sits in the creek.

Just as everything was being completed, the national economy took a dive and silver prices plunged. The mill only operate to capacity. There was only three months in 1922-1923 and only four months in 1925 that were recorded. It only handled 52,385 tons of ore from 1921 to 1925. It operated another 5 times through 1953. Its total production was just \$375,000.

In 1927 the Montana Power Company dam failed and took out twenty miles of railroad and several bridges of the Boston Montana's railroad. It never really recovered. There are only a few buildings left and all that is left of the grand mill is its footings. We were very lucky to

meet some people that had been there before the mill was taken down. They showed us pictures and told us about the upper mines and town, which at that time we could not get to. They also had pictures that they showed us and then let us make copies of them for our collection.

You do have to walk in to Coolidge but it worth the walk. The only thing I wished for was to go back in time for just a minute or two to see what it looked like back in its hay day. If you would like to visit Coolidge, just give us a call and we can tell you how to get there.

Vicki Walborn



ADS:

5 ½ horse power pump with suction hose \$120.00 Call
John Van Dort 755-6528

Member update:

Penny Van Dort fell and broke her arm and her nose.
She is doing better but still has yellow eyes.

Norma Galvin, who fell and broke her ankle at the last
outing, is apparently doing better.

The Club wishes both of them a speedy recovery.

Two Bits Prospecting Supplies	
Braxton and Vicki Walborn	
twobitsprospectingsupplies@yahoo.com	
406-756-9536	2472 Hwy. 93 S.
406-253-6227	
406-253-6200	Kalispell, Mt. 59901

N.W. M.G.P. minutes for September 8, 2009

Braxton called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS:

This meeting was different than most of our meetings. I'm going to make this as short as possible. If there is anyone that would like more information about the meeting, please call me Braxton.

There was a complaint made to the board about equipment being used up on the hill. Braxton started the meeting out by apologizing to the club for how he handled the complaint. He also asked us to try to keep our emotions in check even though our emotions are very high right now. He told us we each would get a chance to talk and ask questions, but it would be by a raise of hands, and you would have the floor for 2 minutes. Braxton wants the club to know if you have a complaint about something that is going on, talk to a board member. If you feel they have not handled it, take it to another board member. Please don't continue to talk to every club member you can, because all this does is hurt the club. There was a lot of discussion and a lot of questions asked. In the end, there was a motion made by Don Roe as follows:

"To make a permanent amendment to the rule that there is no equipment up on the hill except Wayne Hearty and his bobcat. Only those who Wayne allows and has experience in using a bobcat may use it. He is to have one other person with him when he is using the bobcat. When there are other club members on the hill and they ask him to bring them dirt, within reason, he will do that. Wayne has this for 15 days a month."

The message was seconded by Vicki Walborn and then was put to a vote. All voted for this. Motion passed. It was also brought to our attention that at one time the club secretary had a book that all the motions were kept in so that if someone had a question about one of the motions and if the vote was taken or not, that we could look back to see what was done. I have not had that book in the 2 years I have been secretary. Don asked me to please start keeping this book again and I said I would and would go back as far as I could and find as many motions as I could and add them to the new book.

Clarence said that even though the club has voted yes to this motion, it needs to be brought to the forest service by Braxton so that he can let them know about all the reclamation work that Wayne will be doing for the club. Once this is done and the forest service says yes, they are ok with this, this will stand.

Clarence Taber also reminded us that the forest service agreed sometime ago that there would be one person in the club and one person for the forest service that would be the contact people for us. This is not happening anymore and when they come up to the claim, we should let Braxton or whoever our representative is that they are doing this, so that person can talk with the forest service about this.

Braxton had Gary Henry read the treasurer's report. It was approved as read.

NEW BUSINESS

Braxton told us to stay away from the undercuts. Your life is worth more than the gold.

Ric Lance asked that we park our four wheelers in one area and not up on the hill where the trammels are.

Braxton asked the club if we could give a silver round to the person who sends Mary the most usable information for the newsletter. Voted yes.

Braxton also asked the club if we would like to buy some small nuggets to add to the raffles during the winter meetings. Voted yes.

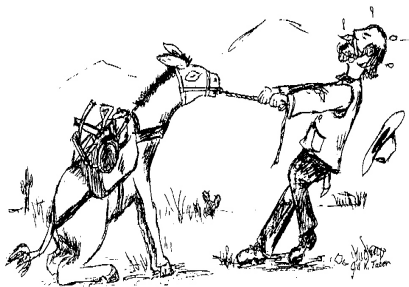
Herb reminded us about the gold show here and the one in Butte. We need to think of raffle prizes if we want to be part of both shows.

John VanDort told us about a club that builds bird houses as fund raising. We should try to come up with something like that.

Trinity Lutheran School was interested in coming up to learn how to pan. We asked Jill to let them know that any time is good for the club.

Raffle Donors and Winners:

Item	Donor	Winner
Singing Lobster	Charlie K.	Herb Robinson
Elk Bottle Cover	Robinsons	Dave Knapp
Painted Gold Pan	Robinsons	Wayne Fetch
Poke	Robinsons	Bill
Poke	Robinsons	Ron
Necklace	Charlie K.	John Jr.
Amethyst	Bill M.	Mike Rhoads
Afghan	Ida	Wayne H.
Top O' Deep	Club	Charlie K.
Gloves	Mike Rhoads	Wayne Fetch
Scoop	Two Bits	Ann Rhoads
Bag	Bill M.	Pennie
Poke and Vial	Wayne H.	Wayne Fetch
Silver Round	Club	Herb

**NEW MEMBERS 2009**

Danny & Angela Baker	Todd & Stephanie Holleman
Jim & Connie Blixt	Jeff Isles
Travis Bosker	Cody & Erin Jaynes
Ray & Janet Clark	Mark & Corene Jones
Gary Crowell	Roy & Opal Keithley
Mark Daggett	Timothy & Julie Koczur
Will Dittman	Dean & Debby Kratz Jr.
Howard Dykstra	Ricky Lovelien
Robert & Sherry-Combs Elias	John & Mary Lyons
Jerry & Valerie-Cozart Funk	Linda and J.A. Mays
Rick Gabert	Christian & Darcy McCarthy
Clifton & Angela Greuter	Aaron McCaslin
David Groark	Jess & Mary Miles
Gary Guest	Terry Miller
Ron & Rosemary Holden	Baden & family Neilson
Daniel & Tammy Newton	Ray & Ann-Sanchez Nichols
Terry & Linda Olson	Joel Pattengale
Brook & Loretta Peterson	Larry Prott
Frank Puval	Carl & Lori Radabah
Ronald & Marie-Robins Robinson	
Danielle & Vernon Schrader	Marge Schwede
Penny Shannon	Monty & Betty Spencer
Mark Stewart	Ernest Veigel
Jerry Walden	Gerald & Ava Walters
Mark & Tami White	James White
Thomas & Joy Wiggins	John & Cindy Wolf

Understanding grains, grams and dwt (penny weight) and Troy Oz. WEIGHT CONVERSIONS

USING TROY OZ

GRAMS	OZT	GRAINS	DWT
31.1	1.00	480	20

USING IMPERIAL OZ

GRAMS	OZ	GRAINS	DWT
28.3	1.00	437.04	18.21

CALCULATIONS

TO CONVERT	TO	MULTIPLY BY
GRAMS	GRAINS	15.4324
GRAINS	GRAMS	.0648
GRAMS	OZ (AVDP)	.0353
GRAMS	OZT	.03215

IN OTHER WORDS

There are 31.1 grams in an ounce, or 480 grains, or 20 dwt

Which means that there are 15.4324 grains in 1 gram

HOW THIS HELPS YOU

When you see a nugget on Ebay, that weighs 6.4 grains, and the bid is at \$13.25, you WANT to be able to figure out how much per oz., you would be paying, its simple.

Take the price of the gold \$13.25 and divide it by the weight (in grains) = \$2.07 per grain

Now multiply \$2.07 x 480 (grains in an ounce) = \$993.75 (per OZT)

GOLD PRICE RISES ABOVE \$1,000 AN OUNCE

<p>LONDON__ (AP) The price of gold rose above \$1,000 per ounce to its highest since March 2008—suggesting investors are wary of the U.S. Dollar's weakness and expect international interest rates to remain low for some time.</p> <p>The gold contract for December delivery traded up \$6.50, or 0.7 percent, at \$1,003.20 per troy ounce on the New</p>	<p>York Mercantile Exchange. It had gone as high as \$1009.70; that is the highest since it hit a record of \$1,033.90 on March 17 last year.</p> <p>Gold is typically bought as an alternative to the dollar among safe-haven assets favored by investors seeking to preserve capital. So its rise often correlates to a drop in the value of the American currency.</p>	<p>That is what happened in spring of 2008, when worries about the financial crisis brew-ing in the U.S. helped drive gold to a record.</p> <p>Gold last went over \$1000 last February.</p> <p>"It is mainly the reflection of the weakness of the dollar," said Julian Jessop, economist at Capital Economics.</p> <p>The dollar fell to 92.32 yen on</p>	<p>Tuesday from 93.05 yen the night before, while the euro strengthened to \$1.4467 from \$1.4332 as markets rose and investor sentiment improved</p> <p>Jessop noted, however that gold was also being boosted by market expectations that global central banks would keep their interest rates low for some time to come.</p>
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