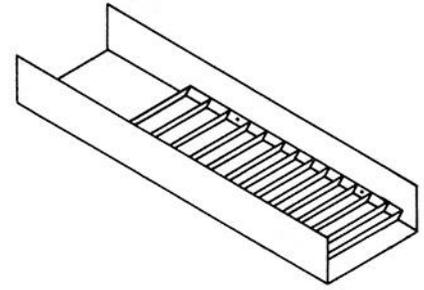




**Prospectors Association**

444 Winchester PMB 12-D,  
Roseburg, OR 97470



**THE SLUICE BOX**

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**October 2016**

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DCPA meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Pine Grove Community Church, 1729 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg, OR 97470 at 7:00 pm. There is an optional potluck starting at 6:30 pm. The Board of Directors meeting is at 6:00 and open to all members.

Dues are \$12 per year, single or family. All members need to attend at least 4 functions (meeting, outing, gold show, picnic, etc.) to qualify to mine on our claims unless it's an official outing.

**Sunshine:** If you know of anyone who is ill or has had a death in the family, etc let me know so I can send them a card. Walt: 541-459-3489 or [wrevens@yahoo.com](mailto:wrevens@yahoo.com)

**From the Meeting:**

Meeting opened by President Gary Sturgill

Guests and new members introduced

Minutes from previous meeting read and approved

Treasurer's report read and approved

Claims: County fees paid on new claim

Outings: Gary was going to lead a group up to the new diggings; Septembers outing: Sharps Creek

New Treasure Hunt clues given

Break

Raffle held

Meeting Adjourned

**Claims:**

The location notice has been filed with the county and the boundaries set. Next we send it to the BLM with the appropriate fees and then we have a new 40-acre claim.

## Page Two

### Outings:

Our Gold Mining outing this month is Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> at Island Creek. We will meet at the McDonald's Restaurant off the 103 Riddle exit at 8:00 a.m.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> Gary will be heading to the "Wayside" at the end of Seven Devils road to film a program with the Prospector's Channel. No need to bring anything other than shovels, classifiers and buckets as his company "Placer Gold Mining Supplies" will have equipment available for folks to use. He'll also be demonstrating using a highbanker without power! The meeting place is the Dairy Queen in Winston. The time is 10:00 a.m.

A reminder that the Annual Meeting (Christmas Banquet) will be December 12<sup>th</sup> at 600 p.m. There is a signup sheet at the meetings. The cost is \$5 for members and \$12 for non-members. All monies will be used towards gifts and door prizes. We're having the usual prime rib cooked to perfection by our very own president. We need to know ahead of time how many are coming so we don't over purchase the meat. We desperately need volunteers to setup, teardown, decorate and do a multitude of other duties.



**The Glory Hole!**



**A look Upstream!**

These photos were taken by Jayne Strader at Sharps Creek. Thanks for the pics!

### Legislation:

**California:** If you remember Brandon Rinehart lost his first case where he was charged with dredging without a permit. He appealed and won based on Federal Preemption (the state cannot interfere with what the Feds grant). Shortly thereafter the state of California pulled his case for review. They only do that to 2% so the state singled this one out! It was heard in Supreme court where Brandon lost.

The reasons for the California Supreme Court ruling were based on a book called Gold vs. Grain. It talks about the effects of Hydraulic Mining on the neighbors downstream, mainly farmers. That type of mining caused two main problems; it poured tons of sediment in to their fields and it muddied people's drinking water. Many believe that this practice was outlawed.

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### Legislation (cont.):

Nothing could be further from the truth. Back in the 1930s the Federal Government got involved and passed a law that basically said that you could continue to mine that way, so long as it didn't adversely affect the neighboring land or streams. If companies could live with that, they could continue to do so.

The state of California actually believes that it was responsible for ending Hydraulic Mining there. As a result, they feel they have the right to also stop suction dredge mining based on the fact that if they can stop one form of mining, they can do as they please with all forms.

**SB838; 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Appeals:** Back in July the state of Oregon asked for an extension to answer our Complaint. We didn't want that. We were ready to go to court. The state was supposed to file something and allow us to respond. Somehow, we were bypassed. Attorney James Buchal filed a response anyway. The state was granted an extension until this month. Now if they request another one, there are papers filed saying that we don't want to grant it.

**SB1530:** Earlier this year Senator Alan Bates who authored SB838 penned another bill which was actually worse. It not only went after the Upland Miners but increased the number of streams affected by the five-year moratorium from 85% to 97! Right now only Essential Salmon Habitat (ESH) is closed to motorized mining leaving the 15% Non-ESH waters open. SB1530 will close any stream that flows in to an ESH even if there are no Salmon in them! Senator Peter Courtney plans on pushing this bill through as a memorial to Alan Bates who passed away a couple months ago. We need to contact our representatives and tell them that we don't want this!

The Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) is working with Placer Miners to defeat this bill. They called a meeting last month inviting leaders from every Mining Association and District (somehow we were overlooked). While Rich Angstrom and Dave Hunnicut from OCAPA are lobbyists themselves, they're asking for a volunteer from each group to help in their endeavor to contact each and every lawmaker starting with the Committee for Natural Resources.

### Kerby's Corner:

Clipping of the day (it's a long one, but exciting stuff) -

**LARGEST ALTHOUSE NUGGET WEIGHED 17 POUNDS FINDER LIVED IN  
CONSTANT FEAR THEN ON;** By Wm. Mackey

*"The largest piece of gold ever taken out on Althouse Creek was mined by a little Irish miner named Mattie Collins in the year 1859 on the east fork of that noted stream. The piece weighed 17 pounds. It was found in the face of a high bank about 12 feet up in the dirt, under a big stump above the high water in the creek. The bank in which the piece of gold was discovered is the front of a small flat which lies at the foot of a high mountain on the north side of Althouse Creek."*

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### **Kerby's Corner (cont.):**

#### ***South Side Pays***

*"The south side of the creek, unlike the north side, rises with considerable slope back in a southerly direction for several hundred yards until it strikes a big gorge in the mountain higher up and farther back. As the sloping mountainside leading up to this gorge has yielded good returns in gold, and as the big piece of gold was found several feet up in the dirt above the bedrock, it would appear that the mammoth nugget came into the creek in a glacial drift from the high gorge.*

*From the place where the big piece of gold was found, the creek extending upstream failed to yield the large returns in gold which it did below.*

*After Mattie Collins found his monster nugget he lived in constant terror of being robbed. He hired a fellow countryman, named Dorsey, to pack the big piece out of the country to a safe place of shipment on the outside. Dorsey carried the piece of gold in a sack on his back, and on the road Mattie would call a halt and say, "Go ahead of me, Dorsey, till I see if anyone would notice it." Mattie then would then "size" Dorsey up from the rear, and after reassuring himself that all was well, he would say, "Arrah, the Devil a one would notice it, Dorsey, g'wan." And in the evening when it would be growing dark on the road, and Mattie would see a black stump or some indistinct object ahead, he would stop Dorsey and say, "Dorsey, is that a man?"*

#### ***Business Index***

*In the early mining days, the presence of gamblers was an unfailing sign of prosperity in the mining camps.'*

*The knights of the gaming table were in evidence in Browntown and at Waldo. The gamblers went back and forth from one of those places to the other. Gamblers whose names were household words in those times are now forgotten and lost to sight in the dim haze of 75 years. Such men as Dan Lanigan, Pony Young, Bill Nicholas and Jos. Wall.*

*The writer, when he was a boy, used to hear the old timers tell about Bill Nicholas and how he used to mine for a awhile and then put on a white shirt and go to gambling. They said he was a good fellow, who never insulted or wronged any man.*

*They used to tell how Nicholas was once challenged by a gambler in Browntown to fight a duel. Nicholas and the gambler went out in the street to do battle. They took one handkerchief between them, each holding an end in his left hand. The gambler held a pistol in his right hand pointed at Nicholas' head, Nicholas holding a bowie knife in his right hand. Nicholas dodged his head as the gambler fired, and drove his knife into the gambler's shoulder, when the crowd of miners rushed in and the men were parted."*

**Kerby's Corner (cont.):**

***Matched with Bully***

*"Bill Nicholas was a small man. A big bully at Waldo, who was an ex-prize fighter, declared that he would whip Nicholas the next time that he came from Althouse to Waldo. When Nicholas entered Waldo the bully proceeded to pick a quarrel with him. Nicholas walked away and went into a store, the bully following him.*

*Nicholas seized a 10-pound weight and struck the bully on the head with it. The bully reeled. Nicholas picked up another weight and struck him in the stomach, felling him to the floor. After this the bully, on meeting Nicholas, never pretended to see the latter. A man named Burnett kept a hotel at Waldo in the year 1859. He kept a young grizzly bear which weighed 500 pounds chained in the back yard of his hotel. Dogs from all parts of the country were pitted against this bear for the entertainment of the gamblers and miners.*

*In one of those grizzly bear and dog exhibitions at Waldo the grizzly bear broke loose and entered the kitchen of the hotel, dragging his chain. The cook and the hired help fled, and the bruin was left in sole possession of the cooking department. Burnett bravely entered the kitchen and jumping astraddle of the bear recaptured the animal and with the help of others placed him back in the bear pen. The bear afterwards escaped and was never recaptured.*

*The ridge between Bolan Creek and Althouse is a highly mineralized section. It extends from the east fork of Althouse nearly to Holland, a distance of 10 miles. From gulches on either side of this ridge good values were mined in early days. McDonnell Gulch, which empties into Bolan Creek, was noted for its large yield of heavy gold. Several large pieces of gold were found in this gulch.*

***Ryan Runs Amok***

*In the year 1885 there was a reckless desperado on Althouse named Tom Ryan. Several were afraid to come to Browntown on Sunday lest ill fate might number them among Tom's victims, for when Tom Ryan came to Browntown on Sunday and had had a few drinks of old bourbon rising in his brain he would hold a big bowie knife in one hand, and a rock in the other, and whoop like an Apache Indian in the street. He had seriously wounded two or three men and attacked others without provocation.*

*About this time at Waldo there was a notorious shoulder striker and bully who, it was said, could whip any man in Josephine County. He could strike a blow with his fist equal to the kick of a horse. Tom Ryan, jealous lest his own ruffian fame be eclipsed by that of the Waldo ruffian, resolved to humble the Waldo shoulder striker's pride. Ryan procured a large stick or club through which he drove several 40-penny nails crosswise. Armed with this odd weapon he started from Browntown to invade Waldo and carry war into the shoulder striker's territory. Upon arriving at Waldo, Tom Ryan met the shoulder striker and charged upon him with his stick full of 40-penny nails. The shoulder striker fled, with Ryan in hot pursuit."*

**Kerby's Corner (cont.):**

*"Ryan was gaining in the race with the Waldo bully when the latter in despair rushed up a high staircase on the outside of a building, closely followed by Ryan.*

*When the bully reached the top of the high flight of steps and saw Tom Ryan ascending the stairs with his stick of nails, the bully jumped from the top to the street beneath and was fearfully shaken by bumping on the hard ground. Stimulated to greater exertion by the fear of being transfixed to the wall or some other place by 40-penny nails, the shoulder striker shook the dust of the town from his feet, leaving Tom Ryan in complete possession of Waldo.*

**Name Becomes Terror**

*The name of Tom Ryan had become a terror to Althouse and to the entire country, but conqueror as he was recognized to be, he was yet destined to meet his Duke of Wellington.*

*There was living on Althouse at that time a husky son of the Emerald Isle named Maxwell, who was a noted character among the miners of Althouse and the country in general in those days. He was a large and finely formed, handsome man, possessed of great bodily strength and activity and was a good singer and dancer. The latter qualities made him popular among the sporting miners.*

*There was a social gathering of the miners one night in Browntown. During the evening while wine and whisky flowed copiously and freely and while all were enjoying themselves, Maxwell was called on to sing a song. While all were listening with respectfully attention to Maxwell's melodious voice, Tom Ryan rose suddenly and seizing a stool without warning struck a poor and inoffensive fellow named Jim Travis on the head, knocking him senseless.*

*Maxwell then interfered and laid hands on Ryan to prevent him from striking Travis again. Ryan struck at Maxwell with the stool. Maxwell dodged, and the blow landed between his shoulders. The latter then grappled with Ryan, and a terrible struggle ensued in which Ryan was thrown to the floor and severely punished by Maxwell. The miners pulled Maxwell off, but the enraged Maxwell turned to a rude table, newly made with small fir trees for legs, and with his hands wrenched one of the little green legs loose from the table. He was about to knock Ryan's head off with it when it was wrenched from his grasp by the miners.*

**Learns What Fright Is**

*Ryan, for the first time ever frightened on Althouse, made a rush to get out of the house but turned for a moment on the threshold to look back when the infuriated Maxwell grabbed a hot stove lid from the stove with his hand and hurled it at him, striking him in the face and making a gash which extended nearly to his eye. He fell to the floor. Maxwell's hand was severely burned by the hot stove lid and Tom Ryan was led to another house and 14 stitches were taken in his face."*

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### **Kerby's Corner (cont.):**

*“Ryan was so humiliated over this crushing defeat which he had met at the hands of Maxwell that he left Althouse soon afterward and went to peddling goods on board a boat running up and down the Columbia River from The Dalles to Portland.*

*In that eventful year of 1859, when so many remarkable things occurred in this country, there lived on Althouse a miner named Harry McVay who was an athlete and had considerable reputation as a wrestler and boxer. McVay had formerly been a deckhand on the line of steamships plying between San Francisco and Panama and was said to have whipped and thrown some of the best men on that line. However, there were miners on Althouse who seemed to think that Maxwell, although unknown to fame, was a better man physically than McVay, and they were anxious to bring the men together in a physical contest of some kind.” To be continued.....*

### **Miner's Mall:**

This will be a monthly classified advertising area for members who want to buy or sell prospecting and mining equipment. This is for members only. No retailers please. I will approach the board about selling business card size ads for vendors. However, if you're a vendor and the item is used, I don't see why I can't post the ad.

E-mail them to me: [wrevens@yahoo.com](mailto:wrevens@yahoo.com) Send photos if you like. I'll try to get them in. If you don't have email, then call me at 541-649-1677.

**For Sale:** Used White's DFX 300 Metal Detector; Excellent condition. Just got back from Whites with a complete tune up and calibration: \$375; Jim in Myrtle Creek @ 775-224-8840

**Used Equipment:** Slightly used White's MXT Metal Detector with Coil Cover: \$639; Slightly used Whites VX3 Metal Detector with coil cover: \$959; New Minelab X-Terra 505 Metal Detector with Koss UR30 headphones, Pro-Pointer pin pointer, 9 inch 18.75 kHz mono coil plus finds pouch & baseball cap: \$800; Used Gold Miner Spiral Wheel: \$200; Gold Magic 12E Spiral Wheel, used once. Works wet or dry: \$325; Walt @ 541-315-2030

**For Sale:** RP44 Shaker Table with stand. Retail at \$3000, asking \$2400; located in Gold Beach. Call Douglas @ 541-247-6707

**For Sale:** Dixie Doodle Trommel: \$500 motor needs work call Micah @ 541-221-2914

