



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the

Trails and Tales of UPI

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December 2012 COULTERVILLE OUTING METAL DETECTOR HUNT

Our first meeting of the New Year will be held at the following location:

**Round Table Pizza
253 Sprekels Avenue
Manteca, CA 95336
209-239-8100**

January 26, 2012 11:00am-3:00pm

Hope to see you there to help make decisions for the New Year 2013!

CONTACTING THE UPI BOARD

DIRECT ALL MAIL TO:
 United Prospectors Inc.
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PRESIDENT Don Siegel President@unitedprospectors.com	VICE PRESIDENT Ed Ozga Vicepresident@unitedprospectors.com Phone: (925) 706-8193	TREASURER Aaron Matula Treasurer@unitedprospectors.com Contact by email
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WAYS & MEANS Don Siegel See above		

VOLUNTEERS

Advocacy/Political Action: Jim Madden (650) 589-8081 or UPI.gold@yahoo.com and Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Historian: Bill Reboin (916) 362-3441
Publication/Newsletter Assistants: Cindy Siegel (209) 551-9802 or cfs623@aol.com and Laurie Ozga (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com
Technical Advisor: *Currently Open*
Wagonmaster: Bob Azbill (530) 644-5365 or gazbill@internet49.com
Webmaster: Mark Weber (707) 449-4808 or mark.weber@sbcglobal.net

Chapters

Contact the chapter chairperson for meeting information.

Alameda County: *Currently open*

Auburn Chapter: *Currently open*

Contra Costa County: *Chairperson; Ed Ozga, (925) 706-8193 or OzMiner@msn.com*

Fresno, Kings, Madera and Merced Counties: *Currently Open*

Marin, Sonoma Counties: *Currently open*

Sacramento County: *Currently open*

San Joaquin County: *Currently open*

Santa Clara County: *Chairperson; Michael Phillips, (408) 595-9121 or kitfoxchumash@yahoo.com*

Stanislaus County: *Currently open*

Please contact the UPI Vice President if you are interested in starting a chapter in your area



UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. (UPI)© THE TRAILS AND TALES OF UPI©

The Family oriented small scale mining organization.

UPI JOURNAL©
 NEWSLETTER©

LOCATING GOLD GEMS AND MINERALS©

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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. MESSAGE FROM YOUR OFFICERS



President
Don Siegel

Well we had a great time in Coulterville this year, and sorry if you were unable to attend. 22 folks worked very hard to find the \$200 buried in the field and although all the change was not accounted for all the prizes were uncovered and traded in later at the potluck for nuggets and other mining tools. (those that came back later found a few more dollars) The potluck was funtastic with great food and company. One thing that we look to change for future dinners is to move to a larger location so stay tuned for more information surrounding next years gathering.

As we go forward into the next year of our long existence we continue to need your help to make this the best club around. I have had several folks approach me and express their enjoyment with our club, the outings and functions, BUT there is so much more that could be done for both our club and our trade (prospecting, camping). It will require some help and input from all of you though. I know it is hard to commit to a one or two year gig as a board member but if you know that you are planning to attend then get involved for that outing. **YOU HAVE PLENTY TO OFFER!**

We will be conducting our kick off meeting for 2013 on Jan. 26th at 11 AM at the Round Table Pizza on Sprekels Ave in Manteca Ca. Call myself or Ed Ozga with questions regarding the meeting. We value your input.
Don

+++++



Vice President
Ed Ozga

Wow, another great year, come and gone...This one seems like it went too quick. I look forward to serving another 2 years as your Vice President. While I had another year of many added responsibilities outside of UPI this past year, luckily Laurie and me were still able to make most of the outings this year. We started the year out at the Moccasin Creek outing in March and had a great time metal detecting. We were then able to make the Bull Creek outing in June, that was a real hoot with the triathlon. Unfortunately we had to miss the Genesse outing, but, from what we heard, we weren't the only ones... We spent time in September at the 7th annual Contra Costa Chapter outing at Bear River and wow what another great time! While we were two of only 12 that made the Twain outing in October, I must say it was probably the best time we had. We met some great new folks at Twain, were able to spend time camping and catching up with Bill Reboin and also had a real good time playing BINGO for gold! We rounded out the year at the Moccasin Creek/Coulterville Pre-Thanksgiving Feed where we had another great time catching up with old friends. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a UPI outing, I highly recommend you try one in 2013 and guarantee you will have a great time!



On a more serious note, I have to mention again that UPI has several board position available that we need volunteers. We recently held elections for the Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer officer positions, as well as the Claims, Ways and Means, Editor, and Membership Directors. Many thanks to Aaron for accepting to continue his reign as our treasurer (we do appreciate you), to Ron for volunteering to get more involved with the claims this year, and especially to Sandy for being willing to take over the huge membership responsibility. However, it is vital that more members start helping with the operations of our organization. UPI will not survive without member involvement.

MAY THERE BE GOLD IN YOUR PAN, Ed.

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Newspaper headline writers really need to clean up their act. A recent one was "Barbara Boxer's Seat Up For Grabs." EEEyukk! That's disgusting! By Jerry Bowen

(Reprinted from January 1997 UPI Publication)



UPI BOARD MINUTES

November 3 , 2012

WELCOME: President, Don Siegel

Called meeting to order at 9:25am. Don thanked Jim Madden for his extra efforts in claims.

ROLL CALL: **Roll call of Officers/Board Members:** President, Don Siegel, Vice-President, Ed Ozga; Treasurer, Aaron Matula; Membership, absent; Outing Coordinators, absent; Claims Manager absent and Assistant Claims Manager, absent. **Roll call of members:** Glenn Frisbie, John Orr, Dick Geren, Al Simoni, Larry Douglas, Denise Matula, Laurie Ozga, Cindy Siegel, Sandy Cameron, James Neeley.

MINUTES: Laurie (acted as Secretary (currently vacated)) presented the previous minutes from the June 2, 2012 and minutes were accepted as recorded.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion on tracking membership from Santa Clara Chapter; Santa Clara Chapter UPI Logo; Board member positions available are Vice President, Treasurer, Editor, Secretary; Use of Logo, need to remove UPI from Silicon Valley Prospector logo on Silicon Valley Prospector's website; Board meetings twice a year (Bylaws; Section 8 Article 1, throughout the year as needed). Discussion on obtaining insurance and what the insurance would cover. President to follow up for January meeting. Nonprofit status – ties in with insurance tax issue, tabled until January meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER: Aaron reported \$8000.00 in bank. Aaron explained that the person who does the books should not be the same person who collects cash money. Aaron requested better record keeping from board members; he is not receiving the information he needs. The question was asked how in depth they needed to be; sales and use tax, what has been sold, what has been raffled. Also, Laurie Ozga volunteered to get him the latest information on the merchandise sold this year. Clarified that the fiscal calendar year is July 1 through June 30.

MEMBERSHIP: Don reported that Sandy Cameron will take over for Dave as membership for the new year.

WAGON MASTER: Don thanked Bob for his efforts and the port a potties have been ordered for all outings.

OUTING COORDINATOR(S): Absent, nothing to report.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Linda will no longer complete the newsletter; Cindy Siegel will take over for a short time until someone else can be found. If no one steps up we may be without a newsletter for the club or at least a newsletter that we have become accustomed to.

WAYS AND MEANS: Position still not filled. Don has been managing this position.

CHAPTERS: Nothing to report.

CLAIMS: Jim has been working very hard at protecting the club and saving money on the cost of claims.

BILLS TO PAY: Online banking fee of \$3.00 a month per Aaron; Laurie Ozga for outing purchases, raffle prizes for the Twain outing; Don for postage, mailbox, outing purchases, turkeys; Motion was approved to pay these bills.

NEW BUSINESS: Laurie Ozga, t-shirt deal and will stay with club colors. Discussion on voting at dinner for positions up for election. Ed Ozga volunteered for Vice President, Aaron Matula volunteered for Treasurer, Sandy Cameron volunteered for Membership; Cindy Siegel volunteered temporarily to complete the newsletter for a short term, Secretary and Editor/Publisher-in-Chief still open.

Don announced the metal detector hunt at 11:00am, \$10 per person. Potluck at 4:00pm. Raffle held after the dinner. All guests are asked to carry out the garbage after the potluck. Forest Hall will be looked at for next year's outing. More information to follow on this.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

UPI COULTERVILLE OUTING - Raffle Winners



Mike Hammond
Cool bucket handles



Don Cox
Hammer & Chisel



Mike Gregonis
Hammer & Chisel



James Neeley
Classifier



Al's down on his luck??



Cecilia Moe
Yellow gloves w/1/2 " classifier



John Lopez
Sluice box



Mike Hammond
Crevice tool



Laurie Ozga
Gold Pan



Cox Family
Knee pads



Joanne Gregonis
Crevice tool



Dennis Moe
Magnifying glass/tweezers



Kenny Nichols
Tow Strap



James Neeley
Gold pan



Glenn Frisbee
Trailer Net



Patty Mobley
Black gloves



James Neeley
Copper Nickel



Stan Webster
Tweezers w/vial



Ed Ozga
Built to Roll



Lucky Winner
Gold Pan

UPI MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New Members as of July 2012

Alberto Larios	Hughson, CA
Allan D. Anderson	Campbell, CA
Ben E. Adams	Modesto, CA
Bill Carr	Las gatos, CA
Cheryl Robello	Los Banos, CA
Chris Wilson	Pacifica, CA
Christopher Valeriote	Diablo, CA
Edwin J. Van Horne	San Jose, CA
Gerald Finney	Fresno, CA
Jerry Goodman	Oakdale, CA
Jerwinn Crane	Quincy, CA
Joyce Smith	Stockton, CA
Luke Alexander	San Jose, CA
Mike Friend	Washoe Valley, NV
Patrick Valeriote	Diablo, CA
Paul Hammond	San Jose, CA
Randall Malley	Santa Cruz, CA
Richard Parker	Visalia, CA
Rob Allen	Stockton, CA
Robert Ballard	South Lake Tahoe, CA
Robin Lee Roney	Mi Wuk Village, CA
Roy Wildman	Ridgecrest, CA
Steven Ingle	San Mateo, CA
Tim Springer	Oroville, CA
Timothy Bolin	Fresno, CA
Vincent Rerolle	Palo Alto, CA
Walt Smith	Turlock, CA

Renewing Members as of July 2012

Dennis & Patricia Mobley	Copperopolis, CA
Mark Chambers	Sparks, NV
Don & Bev Kalmbach	Concord, CA
Kenneth Liddle	Stockton, CA
Rex Miller	Patterson, CA
Mark E. Weber	Vacaville, CA
Karl Fierling	Oakdale, CA
Gerald & Cheryl Hurt	Palmdale, CA
Ross (Smokey) Smith	Danville, CA
Randol Thrasher	Atwater, CA
James Black	Toledo, OR
Terence Pippi	Healdsburg, CA
Anthony Alexander	La Grange, CA
Merv Pate	Manteca, CA
Edgar Pate	Clovis, CA

Renewing Members as of July 2012 continued:

Beth Farmer	Hayward, CA
Randy Marble	Quincy, CA
Keith Lysak	Fremont, CA
Michael Brickwedel	Campbell, CA
Dennis & Violet Mathews	Fresno, CA
Clifford Spafford	Riverbank, CA
Dietrich Papp	Dayton, NV
Ken Austin	Los Gatos, CA
Rand Dill	Corte Madera, CA
Michael Roderick	San Jose, CA
Lee Wilkinson	Concord, CA
Daniel D. McCabe	Quincy, CA
Michael McCabe	Quincy, CA
David Williams	Oakley, CA
James & Marlene Courselle	San Jose, CA
Gary West	Pleasant Hill, CA
John & Dorothy McClure	Turlock, CA
James Rorie	Pacheco, CA
Ron Peterson	Willits, CA
Cody Miller	Patterson, CA
Jerry French	Willits, CA
Robert Cutting	Benicia, CA
Mike Castro	Oakley, CA
Art Castiaux	Ukiah, CA
Jay Bromley	Ukiah, CA
Don New	Livermore, CA
Augie Robles	San Jose, CA
Dolores Lopez	Stockton, CA
John A. Niebuhr	Placerville, CA
Mike Morrasy	Placerville, CA
John Alec Gimurtu	Petaluma, CA
Ronald Milliren Jr.	Gustine, CA
Gary Taylor	Fairfield, CA
Dan DiCarlo	Concord, CA
Sandra Cameron	Concord, CA
Ray & Karen Briese	Mariposa, CA
Buddy Heise	Reedley, CA
Phillip Rountree	Bay Point, CA
Rodney Enns	Kingsburg, CA
Mike & Joanne Gregonis	Tracy, CA
Andrew Provenzano	Winnetka, CA
Kelly Rego	Stockton, CA
John Faull	San Jose, CA
Dennis & Cecilia Moe	Manteca, CA



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***Director at:
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UPI MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Members up for Renewal Nov 2012 to Jan 2013

Black Sheep Mining	Sacramento, CA
Fielding Trading	Coulterville, CA
Lee Greer	Vacaville, CA
Denise Downey	Twain, CA
Leland Brown	Elk Grove, CA
Ray & Audrey Maddalena	Modesto, CA
Art & Lucy Apodaca	Merced, CA
Jim Appleby	Oakley, CA
Ralph & Joanne Gragg	Concord, CA
William Johnson	Elk Grove, CA
Al & Jane Bates	Silver Springs, NV
Steve Letlow & Sandra Cothran-Boss	Georgetown, CA
Tom & Linda Lutrel	Concord, CA
Ivan & Diane Perkins	Brentwood, CA
James West	Weed, CA
Gary V. Nunes	Visalia, CA
Beverly Paul	Folsom, CA
William Westcott	San Leandro, CA
William Greymont	Port Washington, WI
Mike Phillips	San Jose, CA
Olan & Susie Makemson	Columbia, CA
Walt Steever	San Jose, CA
Gene Bianchi	San Jose, CA
James Neeley	French Camp, CA
John Laffey	Livingston, TX
George Lancaster, Jr.	Sunnyvale, CA
Frank & Kathleen Madsen	Novato, CA
Pat & Kim Dunn	Livermore, CA
Kenny Nichols	Tracy, CA
Frank Sanchez	Gilroy, CA
James Forbes	Fresno, CA
Robert Perry	Palo Alto, CA
Tom & Keren Murphy	Susanville, CA
Michael Hern	Napa, CA
Guy B. Sandahl	Vacaville, CA
Daniel Repke	Hickman, CA
Alex Dibrowa	Stockton, CA

Members up for Renewal Nov 2012 to Jan 2013 cont'd

John Lucy	Hughson, CA
Keith & Cristina Thomas	Roseville, CA
Jeffrey Shideler	Placerville, CA
Carl Dagna	Turlock, CA
Mike & Dale Evans	Santa Rosa, CA
Dina Kouchakji	Hollywood, CA
Cisco & Debbie Marcal	Sanbruno, CA
Chuck Armocido	Yuba City, CA
Tony Church	Modesto, CA
Robert Wolf	La Honda, CA
David Miranda	San Jose, CA
Paul Rzad	Boulder Creek, CA
George Hanson	Porterville, CA
Al Pilliod	Livermore, CA
Conrado Lopez	Porterville, CA
Donald Pucilowski	La Grange, CA
Ross Mehan	Sunnyvale, CA
Jeanne Villegas	San Jose, CA
John Lopez	Stockton, CA
Mark Elstad	Modesto, CA
Matthew May	West Sacramento, CA
Jerry Martin	Atwater, CA
Phillip Sanchez	San Jose, CA
Michael Ganster	Half Moon Bay, CA
Steve DeWaide	San Jose, CA
James Baggott	Hollister, CA
Tommy Chelemedos	Pittsburg, CA
Wayne Bootten	San Juan Bautista, CA
Dan Kunz	Wilton, CA
Frank Church	Tracy, CA
Richard Enfantino	San Jose, CA
Joel Franzoia	Sacramento, CA
Rod Brown	Lodi, CA
Larry Douglas	Pleasant Hill, CA
John Malde	Stockton, CA
Michael Hammond	Millbrae, CA



Terry Schoen
Area Supervisor

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UPI COULTERVILLE OUTING - Raffle Winners (Continued)



Joanne Gregonis
Gold Pan



Ron Russell
Black Sands magnet



Lori Parrish
Belly bag w/sniffer bottle



Chris Wilson
California State Fair Wine



Cox family
Crevice tool



Alex Dibrowa
California State Fair Wine



Dan Repke
Classifier



Lori Lauritzen
Crevice tool



Don w/Cecilia Moe
Gold Nugget Winner



Cox Family
Gold Nugget Winner



Don w/Mike Morisey
Gold Nugget Winner



Don w/James Neeley
Gold Nugget Winner



Lori Lauritzen
Gold Nugget Winner



Gail Webster
Gold Nugget Winner



Cox Family
Gold Nugget Winner



Stan Webster
Gold Nugget Winner



ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY CLAIMS MANAGER – JIM MADDEN

Suction dredging lawsuit update.

On October 31st the California State Judicial panel ruled to consolidate all six suction dredging related cases to the Superior Court of San Bernardino under Judge Alvarez. While this ruling is no guarantee of a long term win, it does remove the cases (all of them) from the Alameda court system and give us a fair chance at presenting our arguments that the State and environmental groups over reached based on speculation, not fact.

The six cases that will be consolidated and heard include:

- Karuk Tribe v. California Dept of Fish and Game
- Hillman v. California Dept of Fish and Game
- Karuk II v. California Dept of Fish and Game
- Kimble v. The State of California
- PLP/WMA v. California Dept of Fish and Game
- *New 49ers v. California Dept of Fish and Game

Lake Combie Dredging Moves Forward - An update from the Western Mining Alliance.

Lake Combie, an impoundment if the Bear River near Auburn, California, is still the site of a proposed mercury dredging program.

The Nevada Irrigation district, which strongly opposed suction dredging for gold, is still proposing they and the environmental group, the Sierra Fund, be allowed to dredge gravel from Lake Combie.

Ostensibly this project is to remove gravel to expand the holding capacity of the lake. This same project supported by Senator Feinstein requested nearly \$9 million in grants with some portion of those grants going to the Sierra Fund and a two-man Canadian company that claims to have invented a dredge that is efficient at removing mercury. In testing at Lake Combie the purported mercury dredge was found to be 93% efficient at recovering mercury and far worse than that at recovering the fine mercury environmentalists claim gold dredgers release. That low efficiency rate compares to a 98% capture rate as documented by the California Water Board for a standard unmodified suction gold dredge. Tim Crough, the project manager for the Nevada Irrigation District says they are one permit away from dredging.

Suction gold dredging on the same river is currently banned and environmentalists claim suction dredges release too much mercury. Ironically the Nevada Irrigation district and the Sierra fund are claiming that gold recovered during the dredging will be used to offset costs.

It appears to us, here at the Western Mining Alliance, this is a clear case of a “self licking ice cream cone”. Apparently the environmentalists will support a dredging operation where they stand to make millions while opposing dredging where individuals such as us recover and keep the gold.

The absolute beauty of their plan is to get the \$9 million whether they even recover an ounce of mercury. Who needs to sell gold when you can get \$9 million in grants to recover mercury? This mercury recovery scheme doesn't extend to us though; it is only for the environmental groups. Even though these groups have been opposing suction gold dredging, it looks like suction dredging, if done by environmental groups, is ok.

Based on the estimated amount of mercury the district and environmental groups propose may be recovered the cost per ounce of mercury works out to almost \$9,000 per ounce.

You guessed it; this project is funded by taxpayer money.

We said it before, this whole dredging ban is a scam conducted by the environmental groups. They ban us from the rivers and become the only people who can get permits to dredge, but they're dredging for “mercury” and gold is only a byproduct.

Tell your representatives what you think about this.

ODDS AND ENDS

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

by Mary Ann Mellott

The California Gold Rush helped shape the state and the nation. As with every major event in history, there are interesting facts woven into the history. The popular term for the miners of this area was "miner forty niner", but the gold that started the rush westward was discovered in January 1848, and miners had been extracting gold from streams in the area for years.

Did you know that the original pea sized gold nugget James Marshall found at Sutter's Mill, actually has a name? When he found the nugget, James took it to the camp cook; Elizabeth Jane Wimmer and she tested it for him. After discovering that it was indeed real gold, James dubbed it the "Wimmer Nugget." He hung the stone on a chain and presented it to Jane as a gift. Johann Sutter had the next few pieces of gold melted down and made into a ring with his family coat of arms engraved on it. The actual owner of the mill where the first nugget was discovered, he made no profit from the gold rush. Quite the opposite was true.

All of his workers left in search of gold, his herds of cattle were stolen and squatters took over his land. By 1852 he was bankrupt. In 1880 he died in a hotel in Washington, D.C. Sutter had been waiting for Congress to take action on a bill that would have paid him a \$50,000 compensation for his losses.

Although many flocked to California in search of gold, the first man to become a millionaire because of the gold rush, was not a miner. Samuel Brannan bought all the mining supplies he could find to stock his store at Sutter's Mill. He then took a sample of the gold to San Francisco and acting a town crier, told everyone he met on the streets that they could find more gold in the American River. People left the city in droves, buying their mining supplies at his store on their way to find their fortunes. Samuel smiled all the way to the bank. The average miner earned very little, but with so many newcomers in the area, the cost of supplies was so outrageous many could not afford to stay. Shopkeepers and others selling supplies were the ones who benefited most from the gold rush. An egg, for example sold for \$3.

A lucky few miners did strike it rich. The largest gold nugget ever found weighed 195 lbs. Found in California in 1854, at the time it was estimated to be worth more than \$43,000.

The discovery of gold in New Mexico marked the beginning of the end for the biggest gold rush the world has ever seen. It is estimated that despite all the gold that has left the hills of California, more than 80% is still there, waiting to be found.

Submitted by Georgia Azbill

Note from "temporary" Editor:

Hi everyone, it's me once again, trying to put together the UPI newsletter again. I kinda thought I was done with this, but guess not.

☺ I want to thank Laurie Ozga for all her help with putting the newsletter together. I would like to also apologize if there is any mislabeling of the pictures from the Coulterville outing. I thought I was pretty organized but not so much!

The outing was a huge success again and everyone had a great time! There was food a plenty and it was delicious. I want to send a huge thank you to the gentleman who helped me in the kitchen the whole evening. I am so upset that I don't remember his name but he was a godsend. He worked so hard and really went above and beyond. Please forgive me for not remembering your name but I will never forget all the work you did!!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

Cindy Siegel

Ring Raffle for 2013 – At each outing this year there will be a raffle for a ring valued at \$800 donated by a member. I'm still waiting to get a picture and the description of the ring to put in the newsletter. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$2.00 and the drawing will be at our end of the year Coulterville outing. Of course there will still be the 50/50 raffle and prize raffle tickets sold at each outing as well. Hope to see everyone at the outings spending time with family and friends, good food and hopefully lots of gold in your pockets.

Proposed outings for 2013 will be decided at the first meeting of the year. Outing dates that have been suggested are:

April 19, 20, 21 – Coulterville
May 24, 25, 26 – Twain
July 4, 5, 6, 7 – Bull Creek
September ? – Bear River
October 18, 19, 20 – Coulterville

These dates will be confirmed/changed at the first meeting of the year on Saturday, January 26, 2013. Round Table Pizza at 253 Spreckles Avenue in Manteca. 11:00am – 3:00pm

Hope to see you there!

Members Bulletin

FOR SALE: 4 inch Proline dredge, complete with 5.5 Honda, t-80 air, hoses including air hose and full face mask. Clean, \$2000 or best offer. UPI will get a portion of the proceeds. Contact Don Siegel at (209) 567-2370.



Dear Editor:

While pursuing your outdoor endeavors you may be challenged by a representative of a governmental agency or public servant regarding the legality of your activity in their area. Know what to do by having your PLP Orange Card with you. Contact Laurie Ozga at OzMiner@msn.com if you don't have this card.

Laurie Ozga



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NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

I really appreciate your input and letters. I would like more letters concerning anything to do with gold prospecting so we can share your thoughts with others besides me.

Do you have a personal short story you would like to share?

Do you have pictures you would like to share?

All of the above are welcome.

Cindy Siegel
209-613-7821 or
cfs623@aol.com



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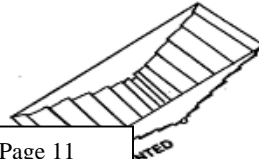
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