

# ***DRYWASHER'S* GAZETTE**

1

**December 2015**

**Send Exchange Bulletins to:**

**Mike Kline, Editor**

**125 Leslie Ct.**

**Banning, Ca. 92220**

**E-mail: [ladygolddigger1246@yahoo.com](mailto:ladygolddigger1246@yahoo.com)**

**Web Site: ["www.valleyprospectors.com"](http://www.valleyprospectors.com)**

**Next General Meeting: January 28th, at 7:00 PM**

## **Mission and Code of Ethics**

**\*You're invited to be our guest at the**

**General membership meetings that are held on the last Thursday  
Of each month at 7:00 pm in the Knights of Columbus Hall at  
1729 E. Baseline Street, San Bernardino, Ca... Map on our website.**

**The Board of Directors meeting will be at 6pm before the General  
Meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall in San Bernardino**

**Valley Prospectors Inc. is an educational organization dedicated  
To and Promote Gold Prospecting, as a healthy family activity**



## **"A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION"**

**Remember that all prospectors may be judged by the example "You set." Leave flora and fauna as  
you found it. "Do Not Destroy Any property, public or private!" "Obey all laws". Please do not litter,**

**\*Each member of Valley Prospectors Inc. should strive to set a good example for others**

## Officers for 2015

<b>Executive Officers</b>			<b>Chairpersons</b>			
President	Kent Bryant	951-202-9616	Apparel	Pat Ferraccio	909-649-1555	
Vice President	Gene Lepper	951-674-3207	Blood Bank	Lorraine Frost	760-868-6564	
Secretary	Jennefer Jercha	951-927-4672	Budget	Judy Carpenter	951-674-3207	
Treasurer	Sue Baranauskas	909-335-7113	CFMS	Bural LaRue	909-874-5664	
			Courtesy	Harry & Kelly	760-248-6683	
<b>Board of Directors</b>			Editor	Mike Kline	951-797-9450	
Roger Maguire	951-316-2568		Finds/Month	Garry & Sherry	951-768-0880	
Pam Maguire	951-316-2568		50/50	Jill Molson	909-887-8024	
Sandy Harter	951-216-5502		Gold Sales	Art Fairchild	951-897-5433	
Joe Harter	951-216-5502		Historian	Lisa Howison	951-734-7530	
Dan Corina	909-797-6111		Lady Luck	Dan Corina	909-797-6111	
Gary Jercha	951-927-4672		Librarian	Bruce Sherman	951-780-7115	
Harry Crawford	760-248-6683		Membership	Judy Carpenter	951-674-3207	
Kelly Crawford	760-248-6683		Name Tags	Judy Carpenter	951-674-3207	
Pat Ferraccio	909-649-1555		Programs	Gene Lepper	951-674-3207	
Art Fairchild	951-897-5433		Refreshments	Joe Harter		
Lisa Howison	951-734-7530					
George Howison	951-734-7530		Outings/Retired during the week	George Howison	951-734-7530	
<b>Alternate Board</b>		<b>Members</b>		Claims	Pam Maguire	951-316-2568
Steve Schubert	951-943-0535		Show and School Representative	Steve Schubert	951-943-0535	
Dave Millikan	951-972-5451					
Jill Molson	909-887-8024					

## CLAIMS

**The 2 Burro's Placer Claims** 20 acres

**Coolgardie Placer Claim Harvey's Oro Rico** 120 acres and the New "**Straight Gold**" 120 acres

**Dumb Luck** 40 acres

**Gold Venture & Pickett 3 Placer Claims**, 20 acres ea.

**Hungryman 1, 2, 3, 4 and Chunker Placer Claims** 550 total acres

**Indian Gulch and Indian Flat Placer Claim** 60 acres

**Jackass 1, 2, & 3 Placer Claims** 160 acres

**Miner's Folly Placer Claim** 60 acres

**Moriah Placer Claim** 15 acres

**Pickett 2 Placer Claim** 30 acres

**(Cajon Pass) Summit Placer Claim** 60 acres

**NOTICE:** We have a new plan of operations for the northern claims. If you are planning on going up north in the next 4 years you must have one with you to work the claims up there. It is on the web site to print out but it is 42 pages. You can buy one printed out at the meeting for \$3.00 or call Judy Carpenter at 951-674-3207 and she can mail you one for \$6



## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Help schools get the extra's they need by saving box tops for education. These labels are on cereal, snack bars, fruit snacks, Kleenex and lots of other products. Please bring to club meeting and give to Mary Schubert. Thank you, Mary

### **BLOOD BANK NEWS - "MVP"**

It's coming to the end of another year. Thank you to all our 2015 donors. You make our community that much stronger with your Gift of Life. There is a tremendous need to replenish Blood due to the San Bernardino attack. Please consider donating soon.

Our most recent members who are helping out:

**Monty Quinn, Calvin Shipley, Jim Straight, Penny Straight, Lorraine Frost.**

Be sure to mention "MVP" as our group so you can be counted. Check out the local donation centers at <https://www.lstream.org/>

The need is constant, the process is simple, and the results are priceless. Valley Prospectors - Supporting our Community one donation at a time.

Lorraine Frost, Blood Bank Chairperson (760) 868-6564  
<mailto:LFrost35@gmail.com>

### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

2016 Renewal Dues are due by January 31, 2016

Please pay now! Remember to include a renewal form (make any necessary changes such as mailing addresses, spouses, emails or phone numbers)

make your check or money order payable to: **Valley Prospectors** And mail to: ***Valley Prospectors***  
***Post Office Box 2923 San Bernardino, CA. 92406***

**WE NEED A NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON** since I will be holding the office of Valley Prospectors President. Please contact me if you are willing to help. 951 674-3207  
 Thank you, Judy Carpenter, [jdycrpnr@aol.com](mailto:jdycrpnr@aol.com)

### **Welcome to Valley Prospectors' Inc.**

Michael Wood & Mariam Faltas, Lois Papner & Cyndy Mandell, Ken & Elizabeth Coplen, Carl Randolph, Trish & Robert Dudley

**(Continued Next Page)**

(Continued)

## VALLEY PROSPECTORS, INC. ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL FORM

**Membership Renewal Dues is \$40.00 and due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year**

**Please make checks payable to:  
Return this form and payment to:**

**Valley Prospectors, Inc.  
Valley Prospectors, Inc.  
Membership Chairperson  
P.O. Box 2923  
San Bernardino CA 92406**

Upon signing, member agrees to have read and understand the Valley Prospectors Rules and Regulations for all claims, and hereby agrees to the following:

“I understand and agree to acquire all necessary permits, Park passes, Wilderness passes that are applicable to my prospecting activities. I will fill in all holes dug while prospecting; and to prospect in an environmentally responsible manner. In addition, I understand that prospecting in certain areas can be dangerous, including but not limited to: open pits/shafts, wild animals and reptiles, not being prepared for weather conditions, along with the possible presence of noxious gases or chemicals. I assume my own responsibility and accept all risks, as well as that of any of my family or guests. I agree to hold the Valley Prospectors, Inc. and any affiliated claim or property owners, or managers harmless of any liability.”

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> A \$20 late fee beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, March 31<sup>st</sup>. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, your membership will be terminated. If you want to reapply for membership you will have to pay the Initiation Fee of \$100.00, in addition to the annual dues of \$40.00.**

**Please Print this and Mail in with Payment**

## Vice President Thoughts

Thanks you to all the guest speakers this past year.

We had VP members, Mitch Whaley a couple of times, talking about his rock crusher and meteorites, George and Lisa Howison on historic mining, Pat Ferraccio on his 72 hrs. Survival (bug out bag), Walt Wegner from PLP, Augie for AKAU Alaska Gold and Resorts, Ralph Lewis on the Kokoweef adventurers, Don Starr on the MMAC. Also we had Mike Dunkerley on the rendezvous and Steve Schubert for the nominations and shows/schools. My sincere apologies if I missed anyone.

Again Thank You All.

## Notes from your election committee

After a shaky start we managed to get ballots to members. The completed ballots are kept in valleys storage and can be checked or viewed upon request. After one year they are destroyed. Thanks go to Judy, Jennifer, Kelly, and Lorraine. Steve

## VALLEY PROSPECTORS BOARD MEETING

### VALLEY PROSPECTORS BOARD MEETING NOV. 19TH 2015 TIME: 6:10pm

Meeting opened by Pres. Kent Bryant. A quorum was met. (Minutes will be accepted at the Jan Board Meeting, (Steve's House) for the Oct. board meeting). Membership: Judy C.- Sent out all Life Members new card, a lot came back unopened. Taking Dues tonight. Editor's Report:Pam M.- Articles due by Dec 9th.Claims: Pam- Nothing. Program: Gene- tonight MMAC, Don Starr. Courtesy: Kelly- all ready for the Christmas party. NEED A NEW COURTESY FOR 2016. Next Outing Is In Coolgardie for ThanksGiving. School/show Chair: Steve S.- Have a school demo in May. 50/50: Don B. tonight. Old Business: Steve S.- We will be doing the GPAA in Feb '16. Pam M. donated a pair of gold nugget earrings to the Christmas Party Raffle. THANK YOU PAM! The Board OK'ed this to be raffled "Pam's Special Nugget Earrings" at the Party, For Members Only. New Business: Jan. 2016 Board Meeting will be at Steve and Mary's House. Happy Hour is at 11-12. Good Eats at 1pm. And The 1st Board Meeting is at 1pm. Pres. Kent Called for Adjournment at 6:33pm. The board agreed.

Minutes by Jennefer Jercha,  
Secretary for Valley Prospectors, INC. 2016

## January Board Meeting

The last and first board meeting will be held at the home of Steve and Mary Schubert on January 10th. It is for all of last year's board and new board members this year and - ANYONE - that is interested in helping out in the club this year.

### **Social 11a.m. -- Eat 12 noon -- meeting at 1 p.m.**

Directions will be sent out to all board. For anyone interested in helping call and we will send you directions to our house. 951-943-0535

(Continued Next Page)

(Continued)

## **VALLEY PROSPECTORS GENERAL MEETING**

### **VALLEY PROSPECTORS GENERAL MEETING NOV. 19 2015 TIME: 7:03**

Call to Order by: Pres. Kent Bryant. Pledge of Allegiance by Kent B. Sect. Jennefer J. ask if the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as written in the newsletter. Judy C. Motion to accept as writes, 2nd by Mitch. All in favor. Sue B gave the Treasures Report. Membership: Judy C. Taking Renewals tonight. VALLEY WILL NEED A NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. 50/50: Don B. will chair tonight. Lady Luck: Steve will chair and we have gold bags tonight! Special Raffle: Pam Maguire donated a pair of gold nugget earring to the Christmas Party Raffle, for members only. Thank you Pam! Refreshments: Mary S.- To night we have Donuts. Jim and Penny donated a jug of apple juice. Nest month is the Christmas Party. Next Outing is in Coolgardie. This is the Thanksgiving outing. Courtesy: Kelly C. We have 36 members and 4 guests tonight. Finds of the Month: Steve S. for Garry tonight. School/show Chair: Steve S.- Next is the GPAA Show in Pomona, Feb 20 and 21. If you want to help out, contact Steve. We also have a school demo in May, need help with this also. Library: Bruce S. have books, and Don B donated a nice big book tonight. Editor: Pam M.- Have all articals to her by Dec9th.

Claims: Pam M.- Nothing. Blood Bank- Mary for Lorraine. Program tonight: Gene L introduced Don Starr from the MMAC. Thank you Don for all the information on whats going on with our claims and such. Refreshment time: 7:40. Resume time: 8:03. Old Business: Christmas party time!!! Dec 6th. 11:00 is showup time, 12 is eats time, then Election results, and then all breaks loose at the Raffles.. New Business: The new owners of the Mining Store that Debra and Mitch have/had where here to talk about the new ideas and thing they will have for sale and teach. The stores new name is " Mining Supplies and Rock shop" Welcome to the neighborhood Ladies.50/50: Don- The winner of \$16.00 tonight is, Kiko!! Door Prize winner is: Dolly K. Badge Prize: Dolores and cant remember who else. Finds of the Month: Steve for Garry Gold- 1st Gene. Detecting: 1st- Dolores 2nd Don B. Motion to adjourn by Gary, 2nd by Mitch at 8:15 pm all in agreement .. Take it away Steve S with them gold bags!!!

Minutes by Jennefer Jercha, Sectrary for  
Valley Prospectors Inc, 2015

### **Valley Prospectors Christmas Party and General Meeting Dec 6th 201**

Time: 12:00-ish kind of... Opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance at Our Christmas Party and General Meeting, Was "filling" to say the least. We ate, we laugh-ed, we Voted for a new board and a New Pres, Vice Pres and Sect. Sue B said she would stay another year. Pres. Kent Bryant gave out certificates to all the "old" board members. We have New Man and Woman of the Year, New Prospector and Treasurer of the Year! And Kent Awarded Steve and Mary Schubert with the first ever "Steve and Mary Award" for all the hard work they did/do for the club. Kent reminded all chair persons that according to our rules their chair is up on Jan 1st (2016 12:01 am). So see the New Prez. if you want to do your chair again this next year. Pres Kent called for an adjournment at 2:07pm- 1st by Ed R. 2nd By Digger Dan C. Raffle time!! Minutes by Jennefer Jercha Secretary for  
Valley Prospectors INC 2015

### **Refreshments**

Thank you to everyone that donated goodies to Valley Prospectors for this past year. They were enjoyed by all. Thank you to Sandy Harter, Kelly & Harry Crawford, John Howell, Mitch & Delora Whaley and Jim & Peggie Straight for Nov. goodies and juice. The Christmas Party was great lots of wonderful food.  
Thank you Mary Schubert

(Continued Next Page)

(Continued)

### Refreshment chairperson needed

I have enjoyed filling in and doing refreshments for part of this past year – now – it's time for someone to step up and do refreshments for 2016. All it takes is making coffee once a month for general meeting and getting volunteers to bring goodies. It will start with the Jan. general meeting on Jan.28<sup>th</sup>. We will be there to help you the first time.

**NO CHAIRPERSON NO COFFEE**

**Call Judy at 951-674-3207 or Mary 951-943-0535**

### Note

**From:** Mary Schubert

I Mary Schubert will do refreshments for Valley till January; Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

### 2015 Christmas Party



### New Board Members

President: Judy Carpenter

Vice Pres.: Jill Molson

Secretary: Kelly Crawford

Treasurer: Sue Baranauskas

Alternates: Steve Schubert, Mike Dunkerley, Harry Crawford.

### Board Members

Dan Corina  
 Pat Ferraccio  
 Art Fairchild  
 John Bonson  
 Penny Straight  
 Gene Lepper  
 Bruce Sherman  
 Bob Wright  
 Sherry Livingston  
 Sandy Harter  
 Joe Harter  
 Gary Devlin



# “Miners Sales”



Members can run 3 times through the year for free. Commercial ads are \$5.00 per month. Send ads to; [ladygolddigger1246@yahoo.com](mailto:ladygolddigger1246@yahoo.com) or Call 951-316-2568

---

## For Sale

Light weight utility trailer w/loading ramp 10' x 5' x 2' sides, single axle, steel frame, aluminum floor, 3 new tires, recently packed wheel bearings. Great for hauling all your prospecting equipment, a real Coolgardie special Asking \$1000 or Best offer Tom 909-584-8618.....

## For Sale

Dear Fellow Prospectors, I am a former member of Route 66 Gold Mining Club and I live in Whittier, CA. At age 70, gold prospecting is too much work for me. I would like to sell the following two pieces of my gold mining equipment: 1. Keene Dry Washer with hand Crank and DC Motor. The new ones cost approximately \$829. I purchased it new, have only used it twice, and I am asking \$400 for it. 2. Keene 2" Highbank/Combination Power Sluice and Dredge Kit (I never used it), 5-HP Briggs & Stratton Engine (includes extra hose). New this would cost approximately \$1,500. I am asking \$500. All of the equipment is in excellent condition. (See attached pictures.) Please contact: Don Eschbach, Phone: 562-943-8736, Email: [donkathyesch@verizon.net](mailto:donkathyesch@verizon.net)



## For Sale

NEED TO SELL ONE OF MY DESERT FOX SPIRALS ALL COMPLETE AND COMES WITH AN EXTRA WHEEL WHICH IS CALLED THE REPLACEMENT WHEEL \$ 300.00 ALL COMPLETE WITH THE CARRYING CASE, / TOM 909-584-8618.

## For Sale

Old hand crank puffer, \$125.00 / Call Sam 909-887-0505

## For Sale

19" Flat screen Insignia TV good condition, great for campers, \$50/ Call 851-316-2568



## FULL MOON CALENDAR 2016

January 24 Sunday  
 February 22 Monday  
 March 23 Wednesday  
 April 22 Friday  
 May 21 Saturday  
 June 20 Monday  
 July 20 Wednesday  
 August 18 Thursday  
 September 16 Friday  
 October 16 Sunday  
 November 14 Monday  
 December 14 Wednesday

---

### HELMS OUTPOST



Mining Equipment & Supplies  
 Handmade Items  
 Pet supplies  
 (760)868-5838

Hours:  
 Wed, Thurs, Sat 8am-5pm  
 Friday 10am-7pm

Come see Wanda and Toni for your mining needs!!!!

Sharing space with:

### TONI'S GROOMING

Dog & Cat Grooming



14444 California Ave Suite C  
 Victorville, CA 92392  
 (760)868-5838

---

### **Quartzsite Market Place Street Fair**

Oct. 31, 2015 - March 1, 2016

### **Tyson Wells Market Center Swap meet**

Oct 01, 2015 -March 31, 2016

### **Desert Gardens -Gem & Mineral**

January 01 - February 28, 2016

### **Prospectors Panorama**

January 02 - January 15, 2016

### **QIA Pow Wow - Gems, minerals & jewelry**

January 20 - January 24, 2016

### **Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show**

January 01 - January 10, 2016

### **Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama**

January 15 - January 24, 2016

### **Tyson Wells Arts and Crafts**

January 29 - February 7, 2016

### **Sports, Vacation & RV Show**

January 16 - January 24, 2016

### **Quartzsite Quilt Show - Quartzsite SR Center TBA**

### **Quartzsite Gold Show**

February 12-14, 2016 QIA building. Friday - Saturday 9-4 Sunday.

### **Desert Bloom ATV Rally**

February 11-14, 2016

---

## Looking For Gold At Hangtown

The town of Placerville or Hangtown, as it was commonly called during the California Gold Rush, consisted of one long straggling street of clapboard houses and log cabins, built in a hollow at the side of a creek, and surrounded by high and steep hills. The diggings here had been exceedingly rich men used to pick the chunks of gold out of the crevices of the rocks in the ravines with no other tool than a bowie-knife; but these days had passed, and now the whole surface of the surrounding country showed the amount of real hard work which had been done. The beds of the numerous ravines which wrinkle the faces of the hills, the bed of the creek, and all the little flats

(Continued Next Page)

## (Continued)

alongside of it, were a confused mass of heaps of dirt and piles of stones lying around the innumerable holes, about six feet square and five or six feet deep, from which they had been thrown out.

The original course of the creek was completely obliterated, its waters being distributed into numberless little ditches, and from them conducted into the "long toms" of the miners through canvas hoses, looking like immensely long slimy sea-serpents. The number of bare stumps of what had once been gigantic pine trees, dotted over the naked hill-sides surrounding the town, showed how freely the axe had been used, and to what purpose was apparent in the extent of the town itself, and in the numerous log cabins scattered over the hills, in situations apparently chosen at the caprice of the owners, but in reality with a view to be near to their diggings, and at the same time to be within a convenient distance of water and firewood.

Along the whole length of the creek, as far as one could see, on the banks of the creek, in the ravines, in the middle of the principal and only street of the town, and even inside some of the houses, were parties of miners, numbering from three or four to a dozen, all hard at work, some laying into it with picks, some shoveling the dirt into the "long toms," or with long handled shovels washing the gold bearing dirt thrown in, and throwing out the stones, while others were working pumps or baling water out of the holes with buckets. There was a continual noise and clatter, as mud, dirt, stones, and water were thrown about in all directions; and the men, dressed in ragged clothes and big boots, wielding picks and shovels, and rolling big rocks about, were all working as if for their lives, going into it with a will, and a degree of energy, not usually seen among laboring men. It was altogether a scene which conveyed the idea of hard work in the fullest sense of the words, and in comparison with which a gang of railway navies would have seemed to be merely a party of gentlemen amateurs playing at working pour passer le temps.

A stroll through the village revealed the extent to which the ordinary comforts of life were attainable. The gambling-houses, of which there were three or four, were of course the largest and most conspicuous buildings; their mirrors, chandeliers, and other decorations, suggesting a style of life totally at variance with the outward indications of everything around them. The street itself was in many places knee-deep in mud, and was plentifully strewn with old boots, hats, and shirts, old sardine-boxes, empty tins of preserved oysters, empty bottles, worn-out pots and kettles, old ham-bones, broken picks and shovels, and other rubbish too various to particularize. Here and there, in the middle of the street, was a square hole about six feet deep, in which one miner was digging, while another was baling the water out with a bucket, and a third, sitting alongside the heap of dirt which had been dug up, was washing it in a rocker. Wagons, drawn by six or eight mules or oxen, were navigating along the street, or discharging their strangely-assorted cargoes at the various stores; and men in picturesque rags, with large muddy boots, long beards, and brown faces, were the only inhabitants to be seen. There were boarding-houses on the table-d'hote principle, in each of which forty or fifty hungry miners sat down three times a day to an oil cloth covered table, and in the course of about three minutes surfeited themselves on salt pork, greasy steaks, and pickles. There were also two or three "hotels," where much the same sort of fare was to be had, with the extra luxuries of a table-cloth and a superior quality of knives and forks. The stores were curious places. There was no specialty about them everything was to be found in them which it could be supposed that anyone could possibly want, excepting fresh beef (there was a butcher who monopolized the sale of that article). On entering a store, one would find the storekeeper in much the same style of costume as the miners, very probably sitting on an empty keg at a rickety little table, playing "seven up" for "the liquor" with one of his customers.

The counter served also the purpose of a bar, and behind it was the usual array of bottles and decanters, while on shelves above them was an ornamental display of boxes of sardines, and brightly-colored tins of preserved meats and vegetables with showy labels, interspersed with bottles of champagne and strangely shaped bottles of exceedingly green pickles, the whole being arranged with some degree of taste. Goods and provisions of every description were stowed away promiscuously all-round the store, in the middle of which was invariably a small table with a bench, or some empty boxes and barrels for the miners to sit on while they played cards, spent their money in brandy and oysters, and occasionally got drunk.

During the week, and especially when the miners were all at work, Hangtown was comparatively quiet; but on Sundays it was a very different place. On that day the miners living within eight or ten miles all flocked in to buy provisions for the week to spend their money in the gambling-rooms to play cards to get their letters from home and to refresh themselves, after a week's labor and isolation in the mountains, in enjoying the excitement of the scene according to their tastes. The gamblers on Sundays reaped a rich harvest; their tables were thronged with crowds of miners, betting eagerly, and of course losing their money. Many men came in, Sunday after Sunday, and gambled off all the gold they had dug during the week, having to get credit at a store for their next week's provisions, and returning to their diggings to work for six days in getting more gold, which would all be transferred the next Sunday to the gamblers, in the vain hope of recovering what had been already lost. The storekeepers did more business on Sundays than in all the rest of the week; and in the afternoon crowds of miners could be seen dispersing over the hills in every direction, laden with the provisions they had been purchasing, chiefly flour, pork and beans, and perhaps a lump of fresh beef. There was only one place of public worship in Hangtown at that time, a very neat little wooden edifice, which belonged to some denomination of Methodists, and seemed to be well attended. There was also a newspaper published two or three times a week, which kept the inhabitants "posted up" as to what was going on in the world.

I met a San Francisco friend in Hangtown practicing his profession as a doctor, who very hospitably offered me quarters in his cabin, which I gladly accepted. The accommodation was not very luxurious, being merely six feet of the floor on which to spread my blankets. My host, however, had no better bed himself, and indeed it was as much as most men cared about. Those who were very particular preferred sleeping on a table or a bench when they were to be had; bunks and shelves were also much in fashion; but the difference in comfort was a mere matter of imagination, for mattresses were not known, and an earthen floor was quite as soft as any wooden board. Three or four miners were also inmates of the doctor's cabin. They were quondam New South Wales squatters, who had been mining for several months in a distant part of the country, and were now going to work a claim about two miles up the creek from Hangtown. As they wanted another hand to work their long tom with them, I very readily joined their party. For several days we worked this place, trudging out to it when it was hardly daylight, taking with us our dinner, which consisted of beefsteaks and bread, and returning to Hangtown about dark; but the claim did not prove rich enough to satisfy us, so we abandoned it, and went "prospecting," which means looking about for a more likely place.