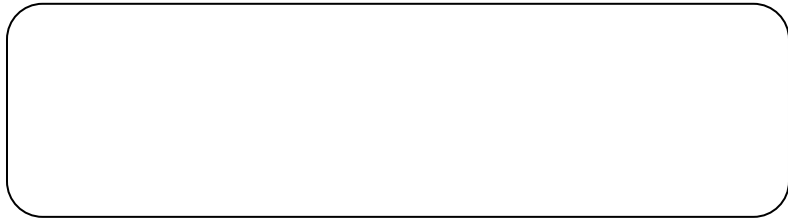


# ***DRYWASHER'S* GAZETTE**

**October 2020**

**Send Exchange Bulletins to:  
Lorraine Frost PO Box 293990  
Phelan, CA 92329-3990  
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com**



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

**Email: [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com)**

**Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923**

**Next General Meeting: January 28, 2021, 7 PM – 9 PM (Tentative)**

## **Mission and Code of Ethics**

Valley Prospectors Inc. is a non-profit educational organization dedicated

“To Promote Gold Prospecting as a healthy family activity.”

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. A map is on our website.

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



## **“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,

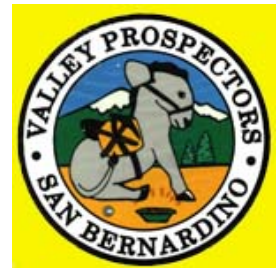
**\*Each member of Valley Prospectors should strive to set a good example for others.\***

## Officers for 2020

| <b>Executive Officers</b> |                |              | <b>Chairpersons</b>             |                                   |                              |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| President                 | Lorraine Frost | 760-868-6564 | Apparel                         | Trish Dudley                      | 480-490-0975                 |
| Vice President            | Steve Schubert | 951-943-0535 | Blood Bank                      | Lorraine Frost                    | 760-868-6564                 |
| Secretary                 | Judy Lepper    | 951-674-3207 | Budget                          | Lorraine Frost                    | 760-868-6564                 |
| Treasurer                 | Vacant         |              | CFMS                            | Bural LaRue                       | 909-874-5664                 |
|                           |                |              | Courtesy                        | Susan Birrell<br>Diane Railsback  | 760-954-1915                 |
| <b>Board of Directors</b> |                |              | Editor                          | Lorraine Frost                    | 760-868-6564                 |
| John Bonson               | 909-794-4401   |              | Asst. Editor                    | Vacant                            |                              |
| Dan Cornia                | 909-797-6111   |              | Finds/Month                     | Garry Devlin<br>Sherry Livingston | 951-768-0880                 |
| Garry Devlin              | 951-768-0880   |              | Lady Luck                       | Albert Naki                       | 909-733-6473                 |
| Bob Dudley                | 480-225-5013   |              | 50/50                           | Sherri Livingston                 | 909-875-2090                 |
| Trish Dudley              | 480-490-0975   |              | Gold Sales                      | Art Fairchild                     | 951-897-5433                 |
| Gene Lepper               | 951-674-3207   |              | Historian                       | Corenna Ross                      | 530-274-1838                 |
| Sherri Livingston         | 909-875-2090   |              | Librarian                       | Vacant                            |                              |
| Jill Molson               | 909-887-8024   |              | Membership                      | Andrea Frost                      | 760-868-6564                 |
| Mike Muir                 | 909-882-9052   |              | Name Tags                       | Andrea Frost                      | 760-868-6564                 |
| Albert Naki               | 909-733-6473   |              | Programs                        | Steve Schubert                    | 951-943-0535                 |
| Katherine Naki            | 909-733-6441   |              | Refreshments                    | Michelle O'Brien                  |                              |
| Bruce Sherman             | 951-780-7715   |              | Outings/Retired during the week | Don Osborne                       | 951-817-0524<br>714-287-0782 |
| <b>Alternates</b>         |                |              | Claims                          | Bob Dudley                        | 480-225-5013                 |
| Stu Luce                  | 909-560-0474   |              | Show & School Rep.              | Steve Schubert                    | 951-943-0535                 |
| John Howell               | 951-247-1037   |              | Wagon Master                    | Mike Dunkerley                    | 760-608-3228                 |
| Tommy Purscelly           | 909-820-1898   |              |                                 |                                   |                              |

## CLAIMS

**The 2 Burro's Placer Claims** 20 acres  
**Coolgardie Placer Claim Harvey's Oro Rico** 120 acres  
**Gold Venture & Pickett #3 Placer Claims**, 20 acres ea.  
**Hungry Man 1, 2, 3, 4 and Chunker Placer Claims** 550 total acres  
**Indian Gulch and Indian Flat Placer Claim** 60 acres  
**Jackass 1, Placer Claim** 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



## **Prez Says – Lorraine Frost – Oct 2020**

Governor Newsom continues to keep California locked down. We miss all of our prospecting friends and are looking forward to when we can gather again. Just a reminder that **all outings for the remainder of the year have been canceled.**

I have been able to hold two Zoom meetings with the Executive Officers and Board Members. I've also been reaching out to them via email. It is time for nominations for 2021. Our VP Board members have recommended that the entire current VP Board and Officers be put forward for a vote for the 2021 positions. There was consensus that this would be agreeable to those on the ballot. Therefore, when you receive your renewal notice, a ballot will be included asking you to vote Yes or No for the entire slate. Please plan to return your ballot to the PO Box no later than Dec 6, 2020 (when we would normally hold our Christmas Party).

### **ARTICLE VIII ELECTIONS**

**Section 1 Election will be by written ballot except for special elections to fill mid-term vacancy on the Board as provided in the Constitution.**

**Section 2 Ballots will be mailed to all members in good standing in time to be returned by mail to be counted at the December General meeting (Christmas Party).**

I know it has been a struggle this year to gather. We were able to meet in January and February before the lockdown. We were able to hold outings in June, July, and August. I've also heard that members have been visiting the claims on their own.

I'm working with the Board to start to develop some learning videos for the coming year. I hope this will provide each member with the information and connection they most desire.

### **Help Stop Claim Jumping**

As Valley Prospector members, we understand the need to respect all claims, those of Valley and those of others. There have been reports of individuals visiting claims while not being owners of or members of clubs who own the claims, aka claim jumping. Know where claim boundaries are and respect them. Please help keep the benefits of being a member of Valley Prospectors safeguarded. There are claim rules which every member should follow (outlined in the member's packet available online via the Members Only page (password required)).

<https://www.valleyprospectors.org/members-only/>

The following rule below clearly notes that members may bring one (1) guest to a claim when it is not an outing. Remember too, you cannot use mechanical equipment. Carry your membership card at all times. You may be asked to show it by other members.

Members must accompany their guest at all times. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the club. Anyone who is planning on meeting a guest on a club claim must give them a signed note introducing the guest and this note must be dated in the event that they get there before you do. The only exception to this is if you invite them to a scheduled outing which would count towards one of the three visits to a club claim.

**Be good stewards of Valley Prospector Claims.**

## **Have you visited a Valley Prospector Claim lately?**

Be sure to submit your claim report. Our claim chair, Bob Dudley, uses this information to file our work assessment documents on an annual basis. You can submit the online form and it will be emailed directly to Bob so that Valley can record the claim work assessment. He will collect these throughout the year. Don't forget to report your Northern Claim visit.

<https://www.valleyprospectors.org/claims/claim-report/>

### **Local Gold History**

# **The Coolgardie Gold Mining Camp of Southern California**

August 2020 by [Dan](#) Stanton, a Valley Prospector member

Reprinted with permission from the Author  
Excerpts from his article in the August 2020 ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal  
You can read the full article in the Journal

### **History**

Gold was first discovered in easily accessed deposits in the Mojave Desert around the late 1800s, and a small settlement of several hundred miners soon sprang up. Coolgardie was named after the rich, western Australian mining town that became large and famous both for its wealth and rough nature. It's been said that Mexican miners coming from the Gold Rush up north worked this area for a while, and then it was worked again during the Great Depression. After that period, California's Coolgardie Mining District never reached the same status.

It's also been said that the area was actually first worked by Chinese laborers from nearby Calico, who weren't allowed to prospect for themselves in that silver-rich area. Instead of just accepting a life of cooking and doing laundry for the predominantly white miners, many of the Chinese set up camp in this area in the late 1800s and began to dig for their own riches. I'm not completely confident about how mining first began here—maybe both explanations are true to some extent. To make things a little more confusing, another source of information reports the actual name of the individual who discovered the gold and some interesting records of the mining operations there. It goes like this:

About May 1900, placer gold was discovered in shallow gravel 20 miles north of Barstow by Dick Duncan. Duncan was one of the co-discoverers of gold at The Kramer Mining District about this same time. He named his discovery the Black Nugget after a famous mine in South Africa.

Another claim, the Coolgardie, was named after a famous Australian gold camp. In August 1900, ten men were operating 2 dry-placer machines at Black Nugget Camp, and the Engineering and Mining Journal reported that "The whole country is said to be located from Coolgardie to Lane's mill, both west and south of Camp Vera."

Dry-placer machines do not work with wet sand, thus during the winter of 1900-1901, the camp was shut down. In June 1901, they began again. Nothing more is heard from the placers at Coolgardie until 1908. In October, the Coolgardie Mining Company, which had devised a dry-washer capable of treating 100 tons of gravel a day, was working here. In 1909, Coolgardie was described as "a small mining settlement, the cabins of the miners scattered over several square miles of dry-placer workings." In 1911, it was stated \$100,000 in gold had been taken from the rich placers at Coolgardie.

Reference was made above to Lane's Mill, and Camp Vera. Lane's Mill, located at Lane's Well (now known as Noble Well), is at best vaguely described. In 1909, Lane's Mill was still standing, and a photo shows several structures. A description of the well in 1917 fails to mention the mill. It is not known what mines supported this mill.

The Camp Vera group of claims were 6 mines northeast of Lane's Mill. At this copper mine, owned by W. J. Rodgers, there were 20 shafts from 10 to 60 feet deep. There is no record of mining at this mine since 1902.

Just 3 miles north of Lane's Well (and one and a half miles north of William's Well), M. J. Smith (see Old Woman Mountains section) discovered the First Chance Mine in 1906. This mine, also known as the Golden Eagle, was worked by Smith through 1911, and in November 1913, there was a 12 by 24-foot building, arrastre and blacksmith shop on the property. Reportedly, \$3,000 in gold was taken from here.

William's Well, not far from Coolgardie, was the site of a placer operation that had probably been going on since the excitement in 1900. In 1910, four men were working the gravel there and making good wages. This well probably was dug in late 1909 by M. W. H. Williams, a resident of Redlands since about 1898. He and his associates spent a number of months in 1909 examining mining property north of Barstow. By digging the well, they enabled many new prospectors to work near there, since water was scarce. The dry placer operations are still worked from time to time. (*Excerpted from California Division of Mines and Geology.*)

Maybe the area was mined in the old days by both the old-timers and the Chinese but it wasn't officially named and worked until Dick Duncan came to the area. Who knows for sure? In either case, it's an interesting area for anyone who likes mining history and prospecting for gold.

When the gold ran out after just a few short years, there was nothing in this desolate place to entice its residents to stay. It doesn't mean they got all of the gold, but the more easily mined placer deposits were pretty well worked out. But modern-day prospectors still find gold there today and no one gets it all.

Gradually the wooden structures crumbled, and today little remains except some rusted cans and piles of lumber where buildings used to stand.

Visitors should exercise extreme caution because many mining shafts have not been filled in and a fall would leave a victim stranded in the middle of the desert.

Coolgardie is approximately 19 miles north of Barstow, and it is necessary to drive along a narrow dirt road to reach it. The GPS coordinates are approximately N35° 06.03', W117° 03.12', and the nearest trail is called "Desert #21: Black Canyon Road."

The road will lead you through the area known as Historic Coolgardie Camp. As mentioned before, one of the most interesting things about Coolgardie Camp (or Coolgardie Mining District, as it also is known) is that it is still being prospected to this day. As you enter the prospecting zone, you will find

claim markers, signs, and rocks defining a large number of claims. You may also find several groups in the area prospecting for rare and valuable minerals. Most of these claims are now controlled by prospecting organizations whose members are allowed to work these claims by virtue of their membership.

There are also a couple of recently abandoned miner's cabins, the larger of which contains a well-maintained grave that is of a miner who spent his final years eking out an existence in this area. To my knowledge, he was the last permanent resident of Coolgardie Camp. His name was Donald D. Kenney and he died here in 1995.

Explore this area carefully, respect private property, mining claims and "keep out" signs, and keep a close eye out for mineshafts. The entire area of Coolgardie Camp is full of shafts and holes.

### Gold Deposits

This is a dry-placer mining district in western San Bernardino County and, as previously mentioned, is about 19 miles north (more like northwest) of Barstow. The area was mined intermittently from around 1900 to 1915, but was also mined in the late 1800s, with a total output valued at about \$100,000, which is around \$9.5 million at the current gold price. The principal operator was the Cool Gardie Mining Company, which operated a battery of gasoline-powered drywashers. Several two-man operations employed single drywashers or rockers. Minor prospecting was done in the district during the 1920s and 1930s. The deposits are in a broad valley; the gold apparently was derived from veins in granitic rocks that are to the east and northeast.

<https://westernmininghistory.com/articles/486/page1/>  
<http://mojavedesert.net/desert-fever/coolgardie.html>

### Are you an aspiring writer?

The Gazette is always looking for great articles about mining and prospecting. If you write or know of articles that would interest the members, please send to [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com) Our members have inquiring minds and love to hear about the history of gold prospecting and mining. Thank you Dan Stanton for granting permission to reprint the above article. It was very informative.



## "Miners Sales"



Members: One ad, 3 times through the year for free. Commercial ads are \$5.00 per month

For Sale: 2021 Lucky Calendars – \$20 each, Garry Devlin is selling 2021 Lucky Calendars on behalf of the non-profit charitable organization – Native Sons of the Golden West. Funds raised help support the restoration of historical sites in California and the Cleft Palate Fund. Calendars are \$20 – you have a chance to win each day out of the year, 365 chances! Contact Garry Devlin at (951) 768-0880 to get yours now. One of our recent winners in 2020 was Lorraine Frost, \$500 for the special Admissions Day Draw on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. Through the generosity of their cleft palate march, the Marini Family Trust, members, families, and many donors, NSGW has been able to donate from 1953 to 2018 a total of \$6,543,781 to 3 hospitals. (1)