



THE ASSAY

THE SOUTHWESTERN PROSPECTORS AND MINERS ASSOCIATION
- Founded 1934 -

Meetings on the Third Tuesday of Each Month
VFW Post 2082
2885 Lemon Grove Ave. Lemon Grove CA 91944

President's Message

Nov 2009



This month's meeting is the annual voting of SPMA officers for the next calendar year. This is the membership's chance to decide which direction the Association will go in 2010. I hope everyone comes out to vote. The ballot is in this newsletter and you also can be added to the ballot at the meeting if you decide to run for office after you receive this Newsletter.

In this Newsletter is the newest claim the Association has for its members. The two claims are located in Buck Canyon (approximately 3 miles West of Ran-

chita, California). This area is 50 miles from San Diego. The claims were a joint venture with the North County Gold Club. This area has two Patented Gold Mines that border the new claims. On the claim are tailing piles from the other mine in the area - Montezuma Mine. The mining there was mainly Hard rock and the placer gold was not mined. This area has streams beds within the claims and several springs which have good potential for wet mining. The claim map is enclosed.

I just received the GPAA Gold Show schedule. There are two Shows near us. The first is in Lancaster, California on Jan. 16-17, 2010 (Antelope Valley Fairgrounds) and in Las Vegas (Southpoint Hotel) on April 17-18, 2010. If you can attend one of these shows there is a lot to see on Gold Prospecting equip-

ment and related items, especially the Las Vegas Show.

The Field trip this month is to our Potholes Claims in the Imperial County near Yuma, Arizona. This is our biggest trip of the year and the Association encourages the members to bring food for the two potlucks that are held over the Thanksgiving Holiday. You will be able to see different types of Dry Prospecting Equipment being used along with metal detecting. The map is enclosed.

Finally, Verne Whidden is stepping down as editor of our newsletter because of other commitments. If anybody would like to be the Newsletter Editor for the 2010 year please contact me. Verne has done an excellent job keeping the Newsletters filled with interesting articles.

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Future Activities

- ♦ **Nov 9th:** 6:30 pm: Board of Directors meeting @ Gem and Mineral Building in Balboa Park
- ♦ **Nov 17th:** 6:30 pm: General Meeting @ VFW Hall in Lemon Grove.
- ♦ **Dec 14th:** 6:30 pm: Board of Directors meeting @ Gem and Mineral Building in Balboa Park

Upcoming Events

- ♦ *Note: Check the Message Center for the latest outing information*



Future Meeting Programs

November : Annual Business Meeting and voting of Officers for 2010.

December : Annual Christmas Party, Awards Ceremony.

SPMA Field Trips

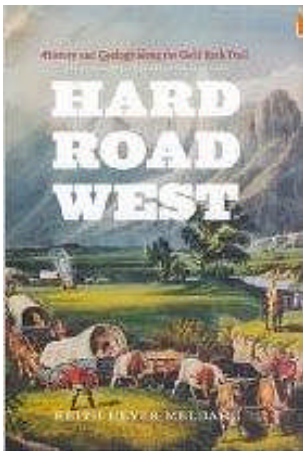
November 26-29 2009: Annual Outing and Potluck at the Potholes Claims near Yuma.

December 2009: The SPMA club has its Christmas Dinner at the VFW hall at 2885 Lemon Grove Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 91944. The club supplies the main course and the members bring a dish to share. It's a lot of fun and time to reflect on the good times and the good field trips of club members.

Speaker's Corner

We had a great speaker for this meeting. Mr. Keith Meldahl is a professor of Geology and Oceanography at Mira Costa College. He gave a slide show and presentation about the 1849 gold rush. He showed the routes taken and explained the consequences of those choices with comments about the hardships and difficulties the emigrants encountered along their chosen route. He also explained how the two main rivers come across Nevada into the mountains and deserts; and how the wagons got across the terrain into California and Oregon. There slides demonstrated mantle movements and how they

affected where gold is found. Mr. Meldahl wrote a book and brought them to the meeting in case anyone wish to purchase one getting more information concerning this lecture and additional information.



Thanks to Keith for his time.

2010 Slate of Officers

President - Joseph JohaneK

Vice President - Brian Winter

Secretary - Roger Fuller

Treasurer - Robbe Ellison

Board of Directors (2 year Term)- Brian Turner

There will be an opportunity, at the meeting, for people to add themselves to the slate if they wish to run for office.

Dealing with the Swine Flu

Experts say it will be almost impossible to avoid coming into contact with the H1N1 virus, so the goal is for people to minimize behavior which helps to spread the virus. The only way for the virus to get into your body is through the nostrils or mouth/throat. The H1N1 virus takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/nasal cavity to rapidly multiply into the millions and show the characteristic symptoms.

Following these simple steps while you are healthy can help you avoid getting infected, infecting others, or at least minimize the severity of infection if you do get the flu.

1. Frequent hand-washing.
2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face as much as possible.
3. Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't

trust salt). **Since every virus can multiply into thousands, every one washed away reduced the level of infection.** Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventive method.

4. Similar to 3, clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. This is easily done with a Neti Pot. Most Neti Pots look like Aladdin's Genie's Lamp, but I recommend the SinuCleanse Squeeze for ease of use.



If you don't have one, blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with ear swabs

dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population. (A Neti Pot is also great for getting errant drywasher tailings out of your nose ☺).

5. Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (citrus fruits). If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.
6. Drink warm liquids as much as you can. Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. It washes proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.
7. If you do need to cough or sneeze; cough or sneeze **into your elbow joint; not your hands.**

Operation of a Stamp Mill - Part 9

Vanner Concentrators

The early mills in California probably ended with the apron plates. Some mills had Amalgamation Pans which will be discussed next month.

Around 1874, the Vanner Concentration tables were perfected. Essentially they are a mechanized gold pan capable of catching lighter

all the other heavies and the small gold in the cleaned pulp would be easily recovered as nothing would interfere with the amalgamation.

The standard Vanner had a continuous rubber belt which moved in the up hill direction. The top surface of the belt was 4 feet wide and 12 feet long. The vanner also fea-

The shaking motion caused the heavier items to sink to the bottom and come in contact with the rubber belt. Friction with the belt would cause the heavy items to resist the downhill flow of the water-pulp mixture and be carried uphill where they would ride the belt over the edge. Larger particles would fall into a collection box;

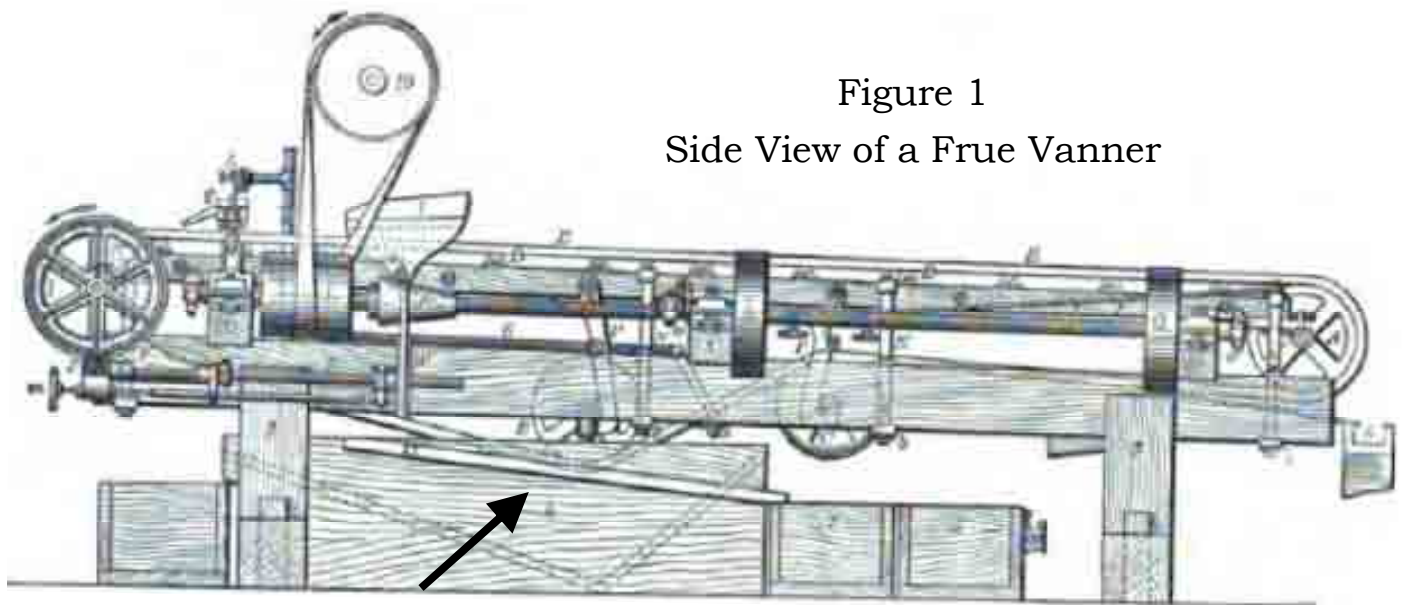


Figure 1
Side View of a Frue Vanner

gold that escaped amalgamation on the apron plates. Better still they will separate any mineral compound as long as it is heavier than the waste rock. This includes Sulphides and other serious enemies of amalgamation such as Tellurides of Gold and Silver. Once collected, these compounds required further processing by smelting, roasting, chlorination, or cyanide to isolate the desired metals.

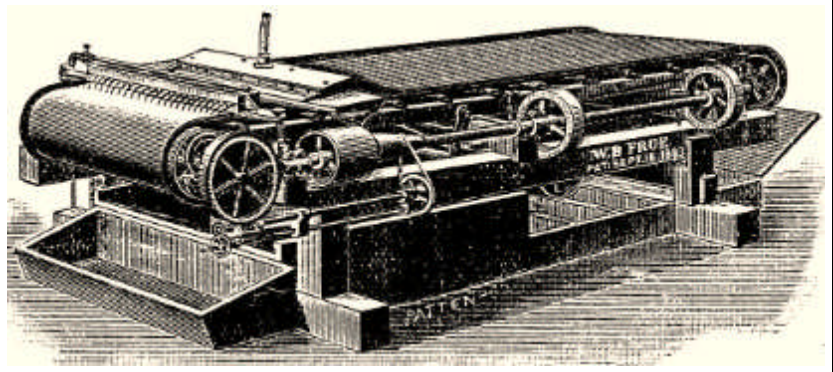
In fact, in a few mills, the pulp from the stamps went to the vanners first and then to the apron plates. The idea being that most of the larger free gold was caught in the stamps, the vanner would remove

smaller particles, smaller than a grain of sand, or just a chemical slime, stayed stuck to the belt. As the belt traveled under the table, it would pass through a water filled tub (See arrow in Fig 1) where the smaller particles and heavier-than-water slimes would drop off the belt.

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Figure 2

The pulp from the apron plates was deposited on a wooden distribution box located just above where it says "Figure 2" (opposite page). The box distributed the pulp over the entire width of the belt. Water was sprayed on the belt in front of the box.



Operation of a Stamp Mill - Part 9

Vanner Concentrators

In contrast, the lighter waste rock, a fine sand by this point, would ride the water current unaffected by friction of the belt, and be carried down hill on its way to the tailings dump.

The belt travels slowly at 2-12 feet per minute. The pitch of the table was 3-6 inches over 12 feet. The table shake is ~200 cycles per minute. The previously mentioned water sprayer near the head of the table would help force any errant sand back downhill just as we see in a modern gold spiral wheel.

Each Vanner could process about 4-6 tons per 24 hours, so normally two were required for each 5 stamp battery. They cost about \$600.00 in 1894 dollars. Shipping was extra and could double the delivered price. A miner would make about \$900 dollars a year. Sounds expensive, but one author quoted the case of a mill in New Mexico that was saving values worth \$150 dollars per day!

While Frue Vanners seem to have been the machines of choice, they did have competition. There were a number of manufacturers, but the Triumph Vanner (pictured to the left) appears to have been the second most popular.

Slimes are suspensions of very fine particles. A good example is the soapy feel of that fine desert clay in your panning bucket; only the particles in these chemical slimes take far longer to settle out, if they settle at all.

Next month we will explore Amagamation Pans and Settlers.

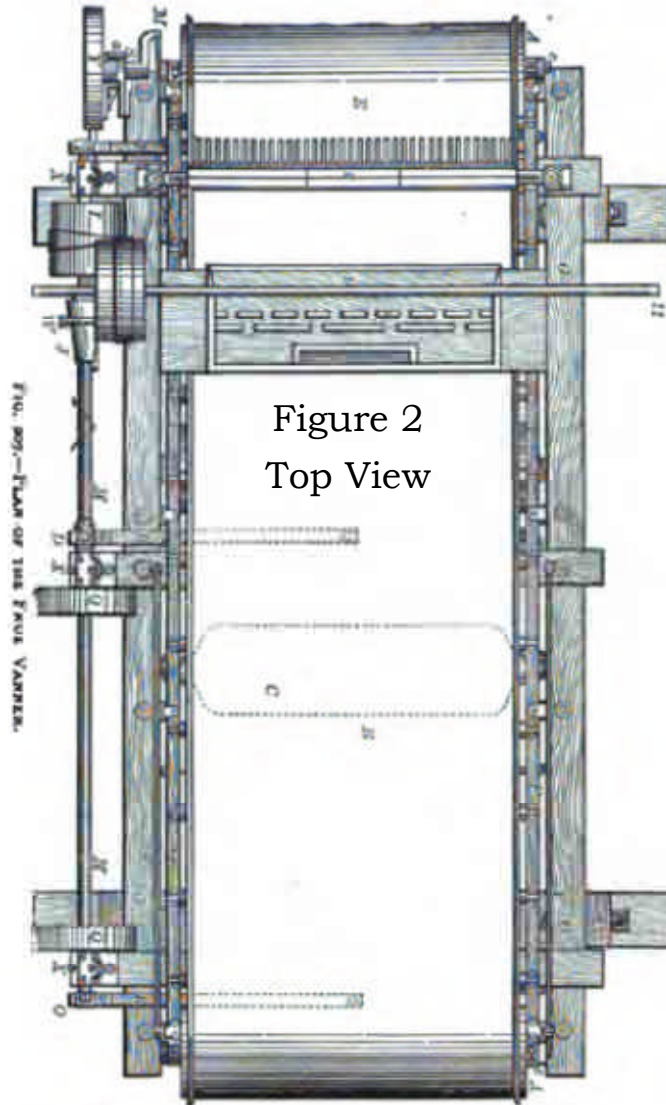
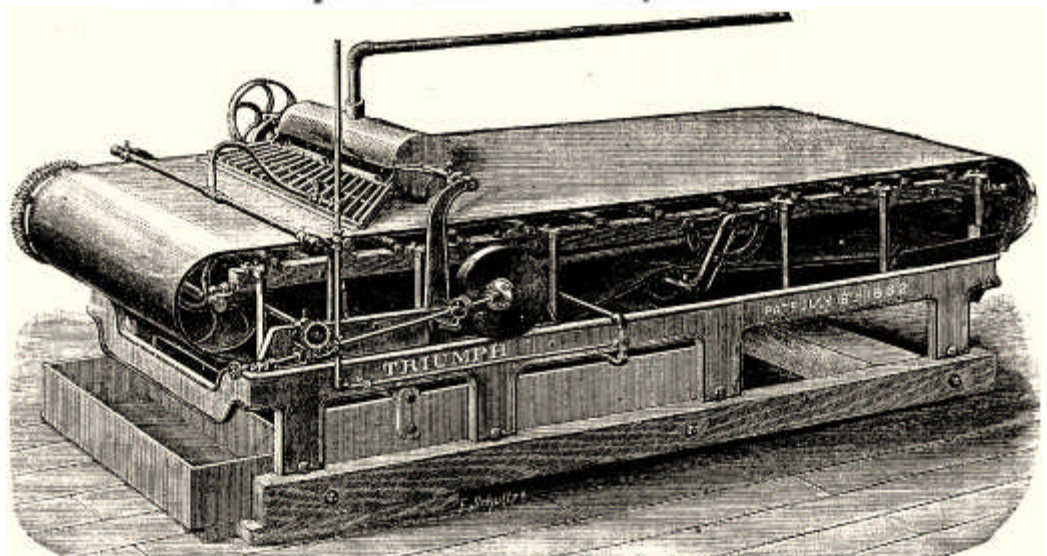


Figure 2
Top View



TRIUMPH CONCENTRATOR.

Detector Raffle

Oct General Meeting

Mr. Michael Stewart won this New Titan 1000xd metal detector, which was donated by Ms. Colleen Jackson, and awarded by Mr. Ed Farley at our Oct general Meeting. We thank Ms. Jackson for her generous donation to the raffle and good wishes to Michael in his detecting adventures.

Had a good turn out for the Oct meeting. We had a great speaker presentation with slides and narration on the gold rush of 1849. This speaker kept the members interested and we went longer than expected but the every one seems very attentive and were asking questions afterwards.



Your officers

President	Joe Johaneck	858-274-9527
Vice President	Brian Winter	619-787-8458
Secretary	Roger Fuller	619-295-5516
Treasurer	Robbe Ellison	858-270-4890
Board of Directors	Randy Stolper Robert Cook	619-995-3612
Past President	Tom Boruszewski	619-583-7052

Your committee chairs

Assay Mailing	Robbe Ellison	858-270-4890
Claims Committee	Joe Johaneck	858-274-9527
Assay Editor	Verne Whidden verne@whidden.com	858-395-4155
Mining Demos	Richard Seany	619-460-2736
News & Info	Roger Fuller	619-295-5516
Librarian	Frank Grima	760-353-0707
Membership	Robbe Ellison	858-270-4890
Metal Detecting	Randy Stolper	619-995-3612
Day Trips/New Member Outings	-vacant-	
Education / Programs	Joe Johaneck	858-274-9527
Ways and Means	Brian Winter	619-787-8458
Refreshments	Brian Turner	858-864-0465
Trip Coordinator	-vacant-	
Fair Committee	Robbe Ellison	858-270-4890
Website	Blakely Sanford Dave Allen	760-633-1787 858-536-9704
Message Center		619-685-4488

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Southwestern Prospectors & Miners Association

- Founded 1934 -

PO Box 904 La Mesa, CA 91944-0904

Return Service Requested

Message Center
(619) 685-4488

Websites:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spma2>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spma_Members_Only

Annual dues are \$40 for new memberships and \$30 for renewal. Make check or money order payable to SPMA and send directly to Membership, PO Box 904 La Mesa, CA 91944-0904.

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The large, bolded squared days are meeting nights ~ the board meets the second Monday of each month and the General Meeting is the third Tuesday of the month. The circled days are the club's scheduled outings.

November 2009

December 2009

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		