

99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

January 2009

Editor: Milah Gano

Quote of the Month: "To dream of the person you would like to be is to waste the person you are"

Anon

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In Columbia Falls

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GOLD PRICES:

As of Jan. 6, 2009

GOLD—\$864.10/OZ.

SILVER—\$ 11.44/OZ.

Our Website:

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

Greetings,

Happy New Year 2009! Last year was a good year for me and it ended with a great trip to Las Vegas in December and the highlight of my trip this year was a complementary stay at Castle Dome Mining Town.

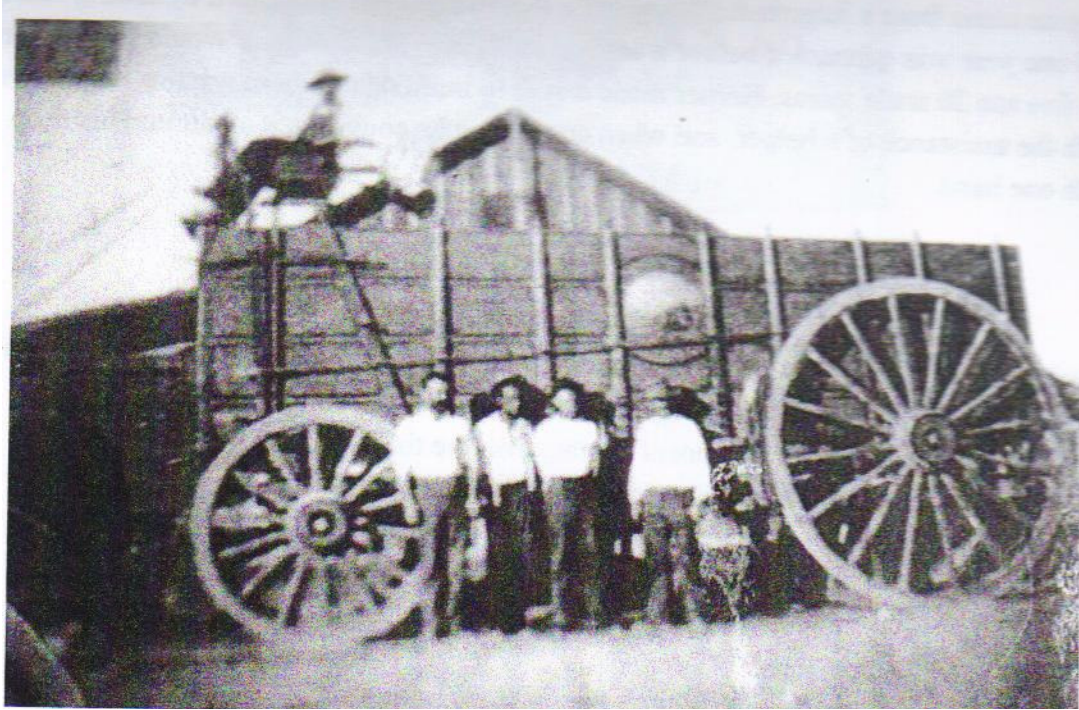
My cousins, MaryLou and Gene Pleas, are RV'ers who are privileged to work at Castle Dome, a privately owned Silver Mining Town. One building is original and the others were constructed onsite or removed from another location to enhance the ghost town. What a treat to spend 3 nights at the lonely hotel in Castle Dome. The hotel has 2 authentic rooms, complete with beds and army blankets, old quilts and flannel sheets. Although Vegas had snow this year while we were there, Castle Dome did not have snow, but was cool. We were toasty warm under the covers at the Castle Dome Hotel.

Castle Dome is owned and operated by Allen and Stephanie Armstrong. Allen and Stephanie live just outside of the "city limits" as it would be. They have solar panels that operate the city. We had a couple of really dark and rainy days while we were there and the only lights were from our flashlights. What a special treat to go back in time to days gone by. Just outside of the city there are a lot of mines. I was able to go down 100 feet in the Hull Silver mine. You can still see the steaks of silver running through the walls.

I can not thank Allen, Stephanie and my cousins enough for that very special stay in Castle Dome.

If you should find yourself South of Quartzsite, and North of Yuma on Highway 95 at mile marker 55, make that trip to Castle Dome City, created by the loving hands of the Armstrongs. You will find a rich heritage, and go back to the days when gold and silver were mined in abundance in Arizona.

Milah Gano



Castle Dome Wagon from 1878

How did the ore get from the mines at Castle Dome to the refineries?

In 1878 Castle Dome Mine, built the largest wagon in the world. In 1887 William Miller, one of the largest operators of the Castle Dome Mines ordered 10 of those wagons built. The purpose of these wagons was to haul ore to the Colorado River for shipment to the smelter in San Francisco. The distance of the trip to the river is twenty miles, where the old steamers were loaded at Dome Landing. The wagons cost \$2,000.00 each and their carrying capacity was 20 tons. To pull a loaded wagon would take 40 horses or 40 mules. These wagons would haul about the same amount as a semi tractor trailer. The front wheels were 5 feet high and the hind 7 feet. The hubs the largest ever made were 2x4 feet, the arms or shoulders are 18 inches in length, and the axles are solid steel. The tires are 5 inches wide and 1 1/2 inch thick. The builder was Christopher Horner, who was a veteran Blacksmith and Machinist, whose shop was on Gila Street in Yuma. At the time it was one of the finest equipped shops in the territory. Much of the steel for building the wagons came from a large eastern firm. The steel came around the horn by sailing vessels and one year was consumed before it arrived in Yuma. These wagons would be replacing the five ton 20 mule teams. Horner made it a rule to build one of these wagons in 10 days, with the assistance of a helper, and when completed he could run it all around his shop with one hand.

A bumpy ride for miners

(taken from the ICMJ's Prospecting & Mining Journal, January 2009)

Miners can expect some new obstacles to pop up over the next four years based on the choices President-elect Obama has made so far.

Remember John Leshy? He went on to be a professor after he was solicitor of the Interior Department under President Clinton. In 1997, he authored the now infamous "Mill site Opinion," which prevented larger mining operations from utilizing public land for processing by limiting mill sites to five acres for each 20-acre claim. The opinion was reversed by the Bush administration.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada), commenting on the opinion, stated it "...could have been written by somebody in the eighth grade rather than this professor."

Now Leshy is back. Obama put him in charge of the transition team overseeing the Interior Department.

Laura Skaer, executive director of the Northwest Mining Association, characterized John Leshy as someone who "made a career out of coming up with cockamamie interpretations of the US Mining Law."

We may see more public lands placed off-limits to mining, stricter regulations on miners, a move to revisit the Clinton-era Roadless Rule, and expanded use of the Endangered Species Act.

President-elect Obama previously declared his administration will address "climate change" by establishing an "economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050."

Climate Change

(This was copied from the Prospecting & Mining Journal also)

There are many ideas on Global Warming, I personally hope that we are not damaging our world.

On December 11, 2008, a US Senate Minority Report was published by the Environment and Public Works Committee, declaring that over 650 international scientists have united to debunk global warming claims.

Many prominent climatologist and environmental scientist are quoted as dissenters to the man-made global warming theory, including some who previously supported the Kyoto Treaty or were members of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Warming fears are the "worst scientific scandal in the history ... When people come to know what the truth is, they will feel deceived by science and scientists," said UN IPCC Japanese Scientist Dr. Kiminori Itoh, an award-winning PhD environmental physical chemist.

"Many (scientists) are now searching for a way to back out quietly (from promoting warming fears), without having their professional careers ruined," stated atmospheric physicist James A. Peden, formerly of the Space Research and Coordination Center in Pittsburgh.

Global Warming

Poem by [Paul Curtis](#) (copied from the internet)

The Environmentalists believe in evolution
Yet refuse to believe
The planet is evolving
Yes there is climate change
Yes there is global warming
But leaving the car at home won't stop it

Weather patterns are cyclical
And we are still coming out of an ice age
And therefore the global thermometer is rising
We are evolving as we have many times before
Britain has been desert, oasis

Ocean and tundra in its history
Long before man came on to the scene
What arrogance to think
We have so much influence on something so vast and
complex
Our planet will continue
To evolve as it did before we arrived
Long after we are but a distant memory

The whole issue is being used by the cheese cloth and
sandal brigade to intimidate people into changing there
lifestyles
This will have no effect on the global climate whatsoever