

HANGTOWN'S GOLD BUG PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1/ Issue 1/ July 2017

OUR VERY FIRST EDITION

In an effort to keep our Hangtown's Gold Bug Park Development Committee members, park employees and friends in the "know", we have established our very first newsletter. The newsletter will be a quarterly publication. This publication will be emailed to members of the Hangtown's Gold Bug Park Development Committee, volunteers, park employees, and friends of the park.

PUBLICATION WILL BE PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

Our new newsletter will be published in January, April, July and October.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEWSLETTER NAME AND LOGO

We would like you to help us name our newsletter. We also need a logo. Don't be shy. Send in your ideas. All nominations will be considered. Please send your nominations by Sept. 15 to Danny Johnson, our editor, at dmjente@yahoo.com

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

To ensure our newsletter is a success, we need your input. Please forward your ideas for the kind of articles you would like to see or information you would like to contribute to our editor at dmjente@yahoo.com.

DIDN'T RECEIVE A NEWSLETTER?

Send your email address to Danny Johnson at dmjente@yahoo.com

BOY SCOUT EAGLE PROJECTS

Two young men working toward their Eagle Scout rank have recently completed projects in Gold Bug Park. Trenton Bandy led members of his troop in building and installing several message boards for our new mining exhibit in front of the stamp mill. These message boards now support the signs explaining the operation of the hydraulic mining monitor, single stamp test mill, shaker table, and arrastra. Ethan Bandy led members of the troop in routing the numbers into the posts which identify the stops on our Deer Hollow Trail. These new permanent posts replace the temporary posts that we had installed a couple of years ago. Ethan and his crew also made a new bench and installed it along Deer Hollow trail. We really appreciate all the hard work that all the scouts from Troop 88 have done for the park. It is wonderful that these young men have volunteered so much of their time to Gold Bug Park and their community.





COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY AT GOLD BUG PARK

On April 29, 2017, Placerville sponsored a community cleanup day. Between 40-50 community volunteers came out to Gold Bug Park to help tidy up. Even families with young children participated.

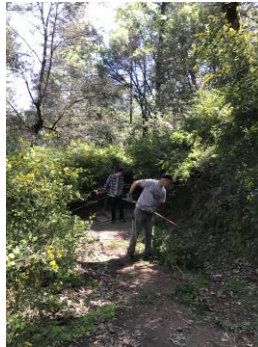


Beverly Johnson and Frank Jacobi were there to help direct some of the crews. One crew cut down weeds along the Deer Hollow Trail. This job was badly needed as the winter rains had promoted a lot of weed growth walk the trail. Another cleaned up the Meagher House. All the unused items were thrown into a big shed (containing 8 toilets) was torn down and thrown out.



impairing our ability to grounds around the garbage bin. The old People mowed the lawn and wacked the weeds. Someone even used a small tractor to take a load of rocks up

to the arrastra exhibit. Thank you us to use some rocks from their area up by the Stamp Mill while yet table and benches as well as the look so nice and the summer eating at the newly painted tables took a crew up to the Priest Mine to broom from the coyote hole. Now purpose of a coyote hole, visitors



to Community Pride for allowing pile. Another crew worked in the another painted all the picnic yellow stripes on the steps. They visitors will undoubtedly enjoy in the pavilion. Finally, Beverly remove the invasive scotch when the guides talk about the will be able to see what it

actually looks like. Gold Bug Park appreciates all the help it received that day. Hopefully, these folks will come back to Gold Bug Park to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

MURDER AT GOLD BUG PARK?

Word has it that there could be a murder at Gold Bug Park. It is supposed to happen on July 15 sometime between 4:30 and 8:00 p.m. That is precisely the time that we will be hosting a dinner event with entertainment, wine tasting, and a drawing. Interactive Entertainment (the same folks who provide our Georgetown Regulators) will be performing a mystery show during dinner and Nello Olivo Winery will be sponsoring the wine tasting. Tickets are \$45 dollars and are available from committee members or at the Placerville News. Buy a ticket for a night of fun entertainment and a chance to figure out "Who Dunit."

HATTIE'S HISTORY CORNER by Beverly Johnson

Who Was William Craddock?



Born in 1858 to John and Caroline (Weiss) Craddock, William had three brothers: Frederick, Theophilus, and Robert. As a youth, William liked sports, and once even won the 200-yard dash in the city's first Olympiad. William, it seems was a jack-of-all-trades. After leaving home, he was first a servant and then a teamster. Later he became a blacksmith. It seems he had always had an interest in mining, and at age 23, he went to Idaho in search of gold.

When William returned home, he married Emma "Lizzie" Fehnemann, a widow with a young son. By 1891, William had purchased a home on a property with a two-stamp mill near the corner of Bedford Ave and Pleasant Street. William and Lizzie had four daughters: Hattie, Hazel, Mabel, and Georgia. From time to time, William did other odd jobs. He worked as a handyman

for the city of Placerville, filled in for the sheriff from time to time, worked as a blacksmith on a road crew near Lake Tahoe, and helped build a foundation for a saw mill. He was also an officer in Confidence Engine Co. #1, the volunteer fire department. William participated in a number of civic groups as well, including the Fisherman's Club, a hunting group, and the Masonic Lodge.

William never lost interest in mining and as he aged, held an interest in a number of claims. The three we know the most about are the Vulture (currently the Gold Bug), the Hattie (also within Gold Bug Park), and the One to Sixteen (also in the Placerville Mining District). Records show that William had stopped mining the Vulture and Hattie sometime between 1911 and 1915. He died of heart failure in 1920.

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER



Hi everyone and thanks for all your efforts in making Memorial Day weekend a successful event for both the Park and the Development Committee.

I think the fundraiser was all the nice place Gold

Bug Park is. They wanted to come back again. Some of the kids had participated in school trips and told their folks so much about it, that the folks decided to make a family day of it. The approximate headcount (hard to be exact when we include the folks who didn't want change) is about 300 folks, many who had never been to the park.



cool thing, in addition to a great for the Development Committee, smiling faces and folks who made compliments about what a special



Great job!

Susan Zito, Treasurer

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

The Gold Bug Park Development Committee has been recognized by the California Park and Recreation Society for its years of work. The committee received the society's 2016 Champion of the Community Award of Excellence, "in recognition of an organization that's contributed significant effort to influence and improve the quality of their community through parks and recreation."

"We're extremely honored to get this significant recognition. We are proud of the body of work the development committee has accomplished for the park and for the city," said Charlie Basham, president of Hangtown's Gold Bug Park Development Committee.

Basham said that dozens of volunteers have been deeply involved with Gold Bug Park's development over the years. "They've been guided by the committee's original vision for those 61 acres so many years ago. That vision is to preserve and promote the park's mining legacy. It's a historic legacy that truly defines the City of Placerville. "

Gold Bug Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a California Point of Historical Interest.

BOARD NOTES

At the May 2017 board meeting, members discussed a few of the park's needs. We received a request for funds for the blacksmith shop but needed clarification, so the board will get more information from Carter. It was also called to the board's attention that the green trailer may not withstand another rainy season. Something needs to be done to ensure that its contents does not get damaged. A suggestion was made to look into the cost of a container or a shed. The board also discussed the public panning troughs. They are leaking and can no longer be repaired. The board decided to buy galvanized troughs and build a wooden shell around them. Hopefully they will be built soon. Finally, preparations are being made for our next event, the Mystery in the Mine dinner. Any questions about these items may be addressed to any of the board members.

NEW PARK VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES

This will be a column showcasing park volunteers and employees.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS

Board meeting dates:

- July 25
- August 22
- September 26
- October 24
- November 28
- December TBD

Some other important events:

- July 15 -- Murder Mystery in the Mine
- September 2 -- Priest Mine Tours (Labor Day weekend)
- October 28 -- Adult Halloween Spookfest in the Priest Mine
- October 29 -- Kids Halloween Spookfest in the Priest Mine