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April 2024

The 49^{er} Fair

Sunday June 2nd, 9am - 3pm



Come and Enjoy

Arts and Crafts
Food, Wine and Beer
Gold Panning
Plant and Gift Sale

Live Music Featuring

The Pub Scouts
Pamela & the Fiddlers
Gordy Ohliger The Banjo-Ologist
"CeeDub, Howard, & Kenny / Kenny,
Howard, & CeeDub"

Free Parking

Colman Museum and Schoolhouse
13548 Centerville Road, Chico

CALENDAR

Saturday April 20th

Fair Planting Party

10:00am at the Schoolhouse

Potluck

6:30pm at the Schoolhouse

Saturday May 4th

Cemetary Clean Up

9:00am - 12:00pm

Saturday May 16th

Canyon Firewise Meeting

6:00pm at the Schoolhouse

Saturday May 18th

Potluck

6:30pm at the Schoolhouse

Thursday May 23rd

Canyon Ladies Gift Sale

Workshop & Dinner

Dinner provided. Bring items to include fair gift sale baskets or just bring yourself to have fun!

6:00pm at the Schoolhouse

Sunday June 2nd

Covered Bridge Pancake

Breakfast

8:00am - 11:00am at the Bridge



PLANT DONATIONS WELCOME

Our Fair plant sale would love your plant donations! If you've any plants that you think would be wonderful additions to our sale, please bring them up to the museum during our weekend hours from 1:00 to 4:00 labeled with your name and the variety of plant. We welcome all healthy plant donations from now until the week prior to the faire.

Call Liz for more information: 343-0428
**Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept any plant donations the day of the fair due to the busyness of that day.

PLANTING PARTY

Our annual planting party is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 am! Meet at the schoolhouse to help plant succulents in pots for our 49er Fair plant sale! There will be a variety of pots, succulents, and soil available, but please bring anything you have to add to our selection of supplies! It's a fun morning with coffee and snacks available to keep you energized!

FIREWISE CANYON MEETING

The national Firewise USA® recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level.

A Firewise designation can help lower individual insurance costs in the community.

Join us May 16th for a Firewise community meeting. 6pm at the Schoolhouse. Let's come together and take the first steps to becoming a Firewise recognized community; we'll write out our community 'action plan', review next steps, and designate a few people who can meet regularly. Contact Andrew Burke 650-868-9655 for more information.

FAIR HELPERS NEEDED

You, too, can be a much appreciated helper at this year's fair! If you have an hour or two to spare, Join us helping with Drinks, Food, or the Gift Sale.

We also need **FAIR SET-UP / CLEAN-UP HELPERS** Join us Saturday, June 1st at 9:00 AM.

SHOW YOUR CANYON SUPPORT for the Museum's biggest fundraiser of the year. Please call 530-521-7930 to schedule a time to help out at one of our many activities.

DONATIONS FOR THE FAIR GIFT SALE

Do you have any new or very close to new items that you'd like to donate to our Fair gift sale? Please drop them off on the schoolhouse porch on a weekend prior to the faire, or call 530-521-7930 and we will pick things up from your home.

Thank you in advance for any donations you might have. Please note, we will not be having a yard sale store this year. **No old items please.**

VENDORS WELCOME

Are you an artist or crafter? We'd love to have you join our vendors at the fair this year! It's a one day event on Sunday, June 2nd, from 9:00 until 3:00. Please call Nancy if you'd like more information about reserving a spot. 530-521-7930

THE LOST MINES AND (ALMOST) LOST MINER OF BUTTE CREEK CANYON

by Tim Calhoon

Have you ever seen or heard of a mine tunnel in the Canyon? You may even have a mine on or near your property. In the September 2023 Schoolbell we talked about the surface mining and the tailings (piles of rocks) all around us. Now let's talk about the underground activities of the early Canyon miners.

Sources of Gold in the Canyon

Where is our canyon's gold coming from? There are two primary sources.

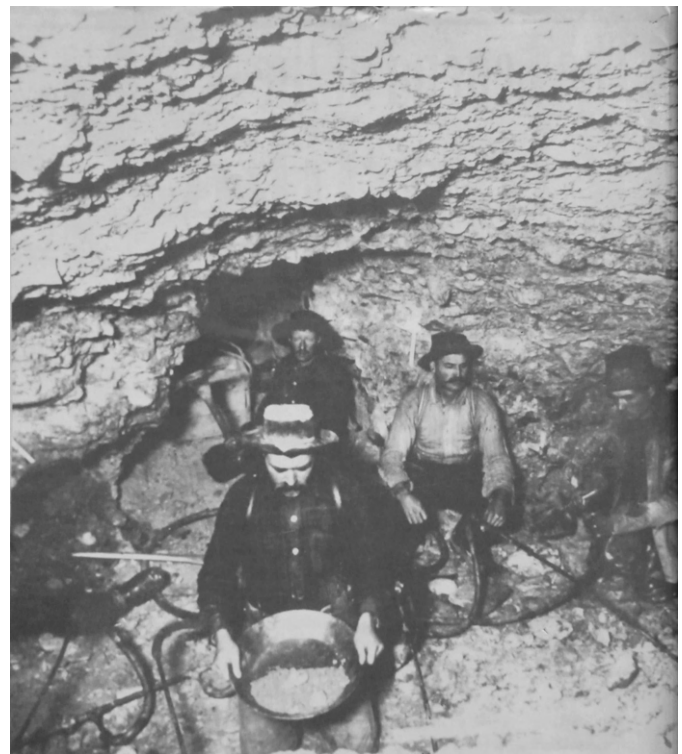
1. Gold bearing Quartz Outcroppings
 2. Gold bearing Ancient River (Tertiary) Channels buried by lava (pyroclastic) flows.
- These lava flows make up our cliffs today.

Both of these sources are eroding and depositing new gold into the canyon with winter storms and flooding.

Hard Rock Quartz Mines

When gold bearing quartz veins were discovered, miners would chip away at the veins following them down underground. Most hard rock gold in quartz is very fine and requires extensive processing to extract. This would usually involve crushing the quartz into a fine powder and then the use of mercury to extract the gold particles. Mercury, a deadly poison, has the unique property of attracting gold into itself as an amalgam. Think of a sponge soaking up water. To release the gold, the mercury would be heated into a deadly vapor leaving behind the gold. Many miners succumbed to mercury poisoning and we still find trace amounts of mercury covered gold left behind in the canyon today.

In 1862, four miles above Centerville, deep in the canyon, a rich quartz vein with large visible gold interlaced through it was discovered by a miner named McBride. Soon a mining camp known as McBrideville was established and the ore was so rich that McBride purchased and transported a stamp mill down the steep canyon walls and installed it on site to crush the ore. Stories about this camp are found in the booklet *"McBrideville - A sneak Peek into one of Butte Creek's most interesting Gold Mining Villages"* available for purchase at the Colman Museum.



Butte Creek Canyon miners deep in a Drift Mine. Notice the river cobble ceiling.

The Drift Mines

By far, the most profitable mines in the canyon were the drift mines which were dug into the sides of the canyon to follow gold bearing ancient dry river channels that once flowed and were covered by our volcanic cliffs millions of years ago. They were called drift mines because the ancient underground rivers meandered, and the mines drifted back and forth following their channels.

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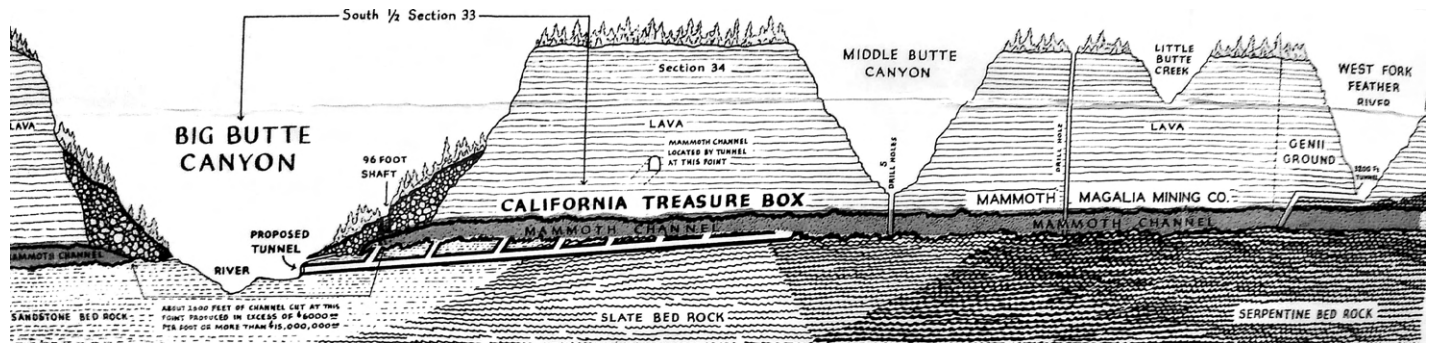
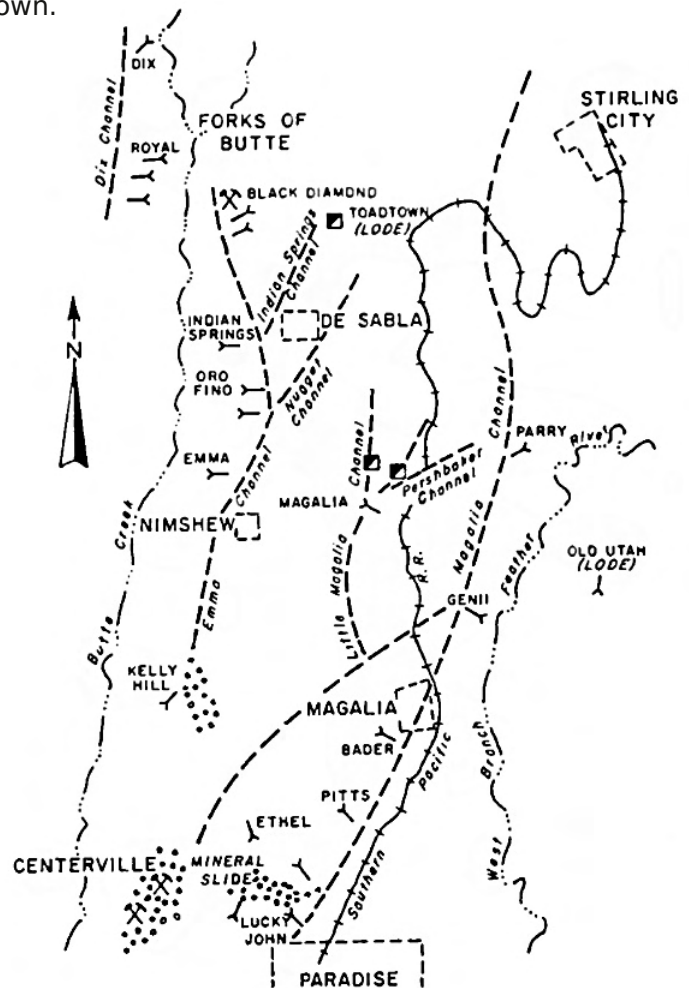


Diagram showing the Mammoth Channel, the largest of the ancient rivers buried million of years ago. The proposed "California Treasure Box" drift mine is shown.

These drift mines went underground thousands of feet and the gravels had to be transported by ore car to the surface to be washed to recover the gold. Some of these mines used water cannons underground to blast out the gravel much like surface hydraulic mines did. The gold take from these mines was phenomenal. Here are some of the accumulated gold production values for the larger mines by 1928 in today's dollars.

Indian Springs	\$100,000,000.00
Emma	\$50,000,000.00
Nimshew	\$20,000,000.00
Kelly Hill	\$25,000,000.00

Perhaps the largest drift mine project in the canyon, "The California Treasure Box" was located in Helltown. It closed in the 1930's during the great depression with stories of theft by the general manager and WWII closed any remaining mines in the canyon as gold mining was not deemed an essential industry for the war.



EXPLANATION

- - - Tertiary channel
- ☒ Shot
- ☒ Shore gravels
- ☒ Adit (Tunnel)
- ☒ Hydraulic mine



A Cautionary Tale

Some of us knew or heard of a miner named Bullet that lived here in the canyon in a cabin in the woods. Bullet past away a few years ago, but he told the story of how he had entered one of the smaller drift mines with a flashlight and candle (as a backup) to gather gravel from the back of the mine and carry it out in five gallon buckets. While inside the mine, the ceiling collapsed behind him. Trapped alone inside in the darkness, with nobody knowing he was there, he desperately began to dig. It took him over 24hrs of digging with failing light and air to get to a point where he broke a tiny hole through the collapsed gravel to fresh air. He said, "The air was getting bad. I would not have made it another 24 hours".

If you ever find one, stay out of the old mines.

JOIN US GOLD MINING TO BENEFIT KIDS & CRHA AT THE 49^{er} FAIR

To make sure that the kids panning at the 49er Fair can go home with gold, we're taking a work party to the "**Bonnie Rae**" mining claim here in the canyon. We'll be digging, sluicing, and panning at historic Cox's Flat where gold was first discovered in the canyon in 1850. The gold we find will be used to make paydirt bags for parents to purchase for their kids panning at the Fair. Proceeds benefit CRHA. You will get dirty and may get wet so wear appropriate clothes and shoes. Bring:

- Lunch and Water
- Gloves and Trowel or Shovel
- Bucket if you have one
- Gold Pan, Sluice & Pry Bar (optional)

Caution The trail to the claim is good, but the climb out at the end of the day is long and steep. Be in good physical shape.

Sunday May 5th 8:30am - 3:30pm.

Meet at the Centerville Cemetary.

Kids old enough to participate working at the claim are welcome.

Space is limited to 20 people.

RSVP to Tim @ tdcalhoon@gmail.com



THE COVERED BRIDGE PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY JUNE 2nd 2024

Join us again for the 59th Annual Pancake Breakfast. It will be held at the bridge park, from **8 AM to 11 AM**. Come and support the rebuilding of the Honey Run Covered Bridge. It's going to be an exciting year with Phase 2 of construction beginning this summer!



COME AND MAKE A SOCK ANIMAL

Join this free workshop with Bonnie Calhoon to make fun and adorable stuffed sock animals for yourself or the 49er Fair! Some materials provided; bring your old (or special) socks, old buttons, etc. Will swap and trade too. Basic hand sewing skills. **At the School House 11am April 27th and May 11th**, and optional on May 18th to show our creations and have coffee and cookies.

For more info call Bonnie Calhoon 530-965-0674

HONEY RUN COVERED BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

HONEY RUN ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT COVERED BRIDGE

HELP REBUILD THE BRIDGE!!

JUNE 8, 2024

BAILEY CREEK GOLF COURSE

LAKE ALMANOR, CA

CONSTRUCTION STARTS APRIL OF THIS YEAR - COME HELP US CELEBRATE!!!!

REGISTRATION:
[HTTPS://REBUILD-HONEY-RUN.PERFECTGOLFEVENT.COM/](https://rebuild-honey-run.perfectgolfevent.com/)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
JOANNE HALL | [JOANNE@GOLFTOURNEYPROS.COM](mailto:joanne@golftourneypros.com) | 916.548.4390

Butte Creek Canyon



Honey Run Covered Bridge ■ Colman Museum ■ Centerville Schoolhouse



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ENTERPRISE-RECORD

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Museum Website: CentervilleMuseum.com **Bridge Website:** hrcoveredbridge.org
Phone: (530) 893-9667 **Facebook:** @Centerville Schoolhouse @HRCBA