



The Keystone Chronicle



Cheyenne Chapter GPAA
P.O Box 234
Cheyenne, WY 82003
www.cheyenneGPAA.com

October 5, 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Meeting: 6 October at The Cloud 9, 7 pm.

Club Meeting: 3 November at The Cloud 9, 7 pm.

Websites of Interest

BLM online mining claims:
geocommunicator.gov

U.S. Forest Service, Medicine Bow: fs.fed.us/r2/mbr

Denver Museum of Nature & Science: dmns.org

Wyoming State Geological Survey:
wsgs.uwyo.edu

Legends of America:
legendsofamerica.com

Wyoming Tails & Trails:
wyomingtalesandtrails.com

Nome Gold:
oldgoldmel@Charter.net

September Minutes

Ken Siders called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. 26 members and guests were in attendance. Guests were introduced and welcomed.

Treasurer's report: the club has \$3,878.68 in it's account.

Secretary's report: correspondence received includes membership info from PLP, a package of catalogs & pricelists from Proline Equipment, and form a form for submitting an annual report to the Secretary of State for the club. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Ken updated the membership on California Senate Bill 670 and what PLP has been doing to fight it. Donations are much needed to defray the legal costs involved. Don Wegner motioned to donate \$100 as a club, and Peter Somontes seconded. The motion was carried. Lyle Shingleton motioned to take up a collection as well, which was also seconded and carried. A total of \$58.00 was collected.

In past years, the club has had a booth at the Cheyenne Gem & Mineral Society's annual Gem & Mineral Show, and we have held a raffle to raise funds. We have had some sponsors donate some very nice items to raffle. However, this past year we had some technical difficulties arise from the winning of a donated .22 rifle by an individual who was visiting the U.S. from Germany. It has been decided that in the future, we will raffle off 3 gold nuggets in order to avoid any problems. Don Ashley has already purchased 3 nuggets for the raffle

We will have a booth/panning demo at the Old West Museum on October 24th from 1-3 pm for the "Ghosts of the West" program. We will need some volunteers to come out and help us promote gold panning!

A trailer has been purchased for the club's

September Minutes(cont)

dredge, see Ken or Don for details.

We need an individual or couple to be Activity Director for the club, so if you can help out with this please contact a club officer.

Don Ashley, Darryl Adams, George & Peggy Stumpf represented our club at a panning demo at the Sierra Trading Post last month. Thanks to them for their time and effort.

Carl Filter has approx. 2 lb of mercury for sale.

Lyle Shingleton discussed some of the trials and tribulations he encountered this year in doing his paperwork for some of his claims. Thanks to Lyle for sharing this and possibly saving others from a lot of grief!
End



Pictured are the nuggets purchased as prizes for next year's Rock & Gem Show

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ken Siders

Treasurer: Don Ashley

Board Members: Peter Somontes, George Stumpf

Newsletter: Peter Somontes
psomontes@Yahoo.com

Ast. Claims Director: Larry Duvall

Activity Chairman: Bear Gibson

Vice President: Darryl Adams

Secretary: Don Wegner

Claims Director: Lyle Shingleton
307-742-5038

Prizes/Raffles: Bob Bruce & John Eggleston

Store: George & Peggy Stumpf

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Raffle Winners

1.81 gr Gold Nugget w/ quarts -	Don Wegner
.42 gr Gold Nugget -	Dennis Renison
.34 gr Gold Nugget -	Darryl Adams
.18 gr Gold Nugget -	Darryl Adams
Cooler -	Lyle Shingleton
Serving Set -	Ken Parker
Bucket Handles -	Ken Siders
MultiTool -	Dennis Renison
Knife -	George Stumpf
Seeker-One -	Dennis Renison
1904 Quarter -	MaryAnn Bolenbaugh

50/50 Drawing - \$30.00 - Don Wegner (donated to PLP)

Anglo-Saxon Gold Hoard Found

LONDON, England (CNN) -- A man using a metal detector in a rural English field has uncovered the largest Anglo-Saxon gold hoard ever found -- an "unprecedented" treasure that sheds new light on history, archaeologists said Thursday.

The hoard includes 5 kilograms (11 pounds) of gold and 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds) of silver. That is more than three times the amount of gold found at Sutton Hoo, one of Britain's most important Anglo-Saxon sites, said the local council in Staffordshire where the latest haul was found.

It's an "incredible collection of material -- absolutely unprecedented," said Kevin Leahy, an archaeologist with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, a voluntary group that records finds made by members of the public. "We've moved into new ground with this material."

Because the find is so large and important, experts haven't been able to say yet how much it is worth. They hope to make a valuation within 13 months, Staffordshire Council said. The hoard was discovered in July by Englishman Terry Herbert, who was using a metal detector he bought more than a decade ago in a jumble sale for only a few pounds (dollars). He belongs to a local metal detecting club in Staffordshire and was just out enjoying his hobby when he made the find.

There was so much gold at the site that Herbert said he was soon seeing it in his sleep.

"Imagine you're at home and somebody just keeps putting money through your letterbox. That's what it was like," Herbert told Britain's Press Association. "As soon as I closed my eyes I saw gold patterns. I didn't think it was ever going to end."

Herbert found 500 items before he called in experts, who then found a further 800 articles in the soil. Officials aren't saying exactly where the gold was found, other than to say it was in Staffordshire, in north-central England.

"Pieces were just literally sat at the top of the soil, at the grass," said Ian Wykes, of the county council. He said the hoard had been unearthed by recent plowing.

Most of the pieces appear to date from the 7th century, though experts can't agree on when the hoard first entered the ground, Staffordshire Council said.

The pieces are almost all war gear, Leahy said. There are very few dress fittings and no feminine dress fittings; there are only two gold buckles,

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see me at the meeting. Your ad will also be on

the Chapter website.

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Suction Tweezers	\$ 0.25
T-Shirt (adult)	\$12.00
T-Shirt (kids)	\$10.50
Tweezers	\$ 5.00

and they were probably used for harness armor, he said.

Sword hilt fittings and pieces of helmets, all elaborately decorated, are among the more remarkable finds.

"The quantity of gold is amazing but, more importantly, the craftsmanship is consummate," Leahy said. "This was the very best that the Anglo-Saxon metalworkers could do, and they were very good. Tiny garnets were cut to shape and set in a mass of cells to give a rich, glowing effect; it is stunning."

The items belonged to the elite -- aristocracy or royalty, he said, though it's not clear who the original or final owners were, why they buried it, or when.

"It looks like a collection of trophies, but it is impossible to say if the hoard was the spoils from a single battle or a long and highly successful military career," he said.

More work will help determine how the hoard came to be buried in the field, Leahy said.

Many of the objects are inlaid with garnets, which Leahy called "stunning" and "as good as it gets." The filigree on the items is "incredible," he said.

Some are decorated in an Anglo-Saxon style consisting of strange animals intertwined with each other. That decoration appears on what is believed to be the cheek-piece of a helmet, decorated with a frieze of running, interlaced animals.

A strip of gold bearing a Biblical inscription in Latin is one of the most significant and controversial finds, Staffordshire Council said. One expert believes the lettering dates from the 7th or early 8th centuries, but another is sure it dates from the 8th or 9th centuries.

The inscription, misspelled in places, is probably from the Book of Numbers and reads: "Surge domine et dissipentur inimici tui et fugiant qui oderunt te a facie tua," or "Rise up, o Lord, and may thy enemies be dispersed, and let them that hate thee, flee from before thy face."

Regardless of the exact date, the hoard is certainly from a period of great turmoil, when kingdoms with tribal loyalties battled each other in a state of perpetual warfare, experts say.

The land was also split along religious lines. Christianity was the principal religion, having gained ground at the expense of local pagan forms of worship, experts said.

At least two crosses are among the items in the hoard. The largest is intact, though it has been folded, possibly to make it fit into a small space prior to burial, Staffordshire Council said.

The folding may mean it was buried by pagans who had little respect for the Christian symbol, but it may have also been done by Christians who had taken it from someone else's shrine, experts said.

The hoard will likely help rewrite history, experts said.

"Earlier finds will be looked at in the context of what we find amongst this mass of material," Leahy said.

Said Leslie Webster, the former keeper of the Department of Prehistory and Europe at the British Museum; "This is going to alter our perceptions of Anglo-Saxon England."

Excavation of the field where the hoard was found is now complete, and all items that were found are being held at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The most important objects will go on exhibit from Friday until October 13, after

which they will go to the British Museum in London for valuation.

Once the items have been valued, Staffordshire Council said it hopes a selection of the pieces can go on temporary display at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent.

Once the hoard is sold, the market value of the find will go to Herbert and the owner of the field where the hoard was discovered. The pair have agreed to split the amount.

End

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Membership Numbers

Please provide your GPAA membership number to Don Wegner (or the acting Secretary in his absence.) We need these numbers for our Club records. The numbers allow us to compare our roster with the National's to ensure we receive all the credits we deserve.

You can write your number on the sign-in sheet at any meeting or email it to Pete.