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5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 72, Issue 3, Meeting #820. March 13, 2019

Next Meeting: April 10, 2019

GOLD!



“There’s gold in them thar hills!” That is one statement ‘The Oldest Living Pioneer’ did *not* make at the March meeting. But The Pioneer did tell a wonderful tale about gold discoveries in the U.S., starting with the first big nugget found (in North Carolina) and initially used as a door stop for a log cabin.

The story was told from an eyewitness perspective, relating facts known from the various gold rushes and mixing them with stories describing how that gold was minted into coins. A slide show on the screen behind the old man helped illustrate the people and coins of that era.

Although that first big gold nugget was found in 1799, it wasn’t until 1828 that gold deposits were found in North Carolina and Georgia. Since gold dust was difficult to use in trade, and because the Philadelphia mint was so far away, Templeton Reid was the first person to privately mint the mined gold in 1830-1831. But he was shut down after a couple months because his gold coins were underweight.



There were around thirty individuals/companies who eventually minted gold coins in that region. In July 1831 Christopher Bechtler started minting gold coins of proper weight, and eventually minted over \$2 million face value in gold. He minted \$2.50 and \$5 gold pieces, and also minted \$1 gold coins, 17 years before the U.S. Mint began to make that denomination.



The Pioneer then told of heading west in 1846 with a Mormon Battalion on its way to a new homeland. They landed in Yerba Buena, later to become known as San Francisco. He related how a Captain John Sutter had a sawmill being built by James Marshall east of Sacramento along the south fork of the American River, and gold was discovered in the river. He tried to keep it a secret, but word quickly got out and the California gold rush was on. Over \$600 million in gold was found, with \$50 million minted into private gold coin by about 50 companies.

Other interesting anecdotes in The Pioneer’s story were:



- In December 1848 the first \$10 Mormon gold was minted, with much more in 1849. But the gold content was only ~80 percent of what was stated, and that coinage was discredited (see photo prior page)



- Norris Gregg was the first person to mint gold coin in California
- Gold coins were minted in Oregon in 1849, featuring a beaver
- Scattered finds of gold in 1858 in Colorado led to a major gold rush by



1859. Locally minted gold coins featured a simplistic design of Pike's Peak

- A U.S. Branch Mint was finally built in San Francisco in 1854, and the Denver Mint finally started minting coins in 1906.



The club gave 'Ol Pioneer a hearty round of applause after his presentation was over. It was well appreciated by everybody. And after changing back to

modern clothing, Don Kagin of Kagin's in Tiburon talked briefly with the club about the hobby and encouraging all to continue participation with the hobby, especially as a member of the ANA (American Numismatic Association). Don is currently the Vice President of the ANA and is running for president.



MORE GOLD!

There was gold given away at the March 17 meeting as well. Merle announced the results of the show. For the Gold Coin Drawing, twenty five club members sold \$3771 worth of tickets! The top seller was Andy S, followed by Jack H and Charlie C. Each of them received a prize (see below). And among the other ticket sellers, a name was drawn for a fourth prize, a gold coin: it went to Jim Cauley.

The door prize drawing was also announced, and the winner of that 2 Peso gold piece was Dan C.

Finally, there was a drawing for all the members who helped set up and tear down the show. The winner of that was Bob K, who won a slabbed Morgan dollar!

AND, we had our 6 Month Membership Gold Drawing as well, with three gold prizes. Third prize, a 2 Peso Mexican gold piece, went to Jack H. Second prize, a 2-1/2 Peso Mexican Gold piece, went to Phil A. And first prize, a 1/10 ounce gold piece, went to David A! For the next six months, every time you attend a meeting you will be entered in the drawing for the next Membership Gold Drawing.

Merle also gave a brief run-down on how well we did with the show. Thanks to so many of you for being there, helping, and showing your club spirit. It was nice to see all those green lanyards with your name and club logo. If you need one, please see Charlie at the next meeting.

APRIL TOPIC (NO FOOLIN')

The topic for the April meeting will be: WHAT I GOT AT THE COIN SHOW AND WHAT I AM STILL LOOKING FOR. Please bring in your coin(s) and talk about them. We can project them on the screen above the stage for all to see!

For those who did not/could not bring a dessert for the March meeting, please bring something to share for goodies at the April meeting- THANKS!!!

Mike M took names of people wanting to order 2020 Red Books. The small book is \$9, the big print edition is \$17, and the Mega Red Book is \$28.

WHAT I WON AT THE COIN SHOW

Being the third highest Gold Drawing Ticket Seller for the show, Merle let me choose the prize. Seeing Jeff Shevlin talk at the February meeting reminded me of a felt banner hanging in my home. It is about 2' X 2' and features the Tower of Jewels from the 1915 Panama Pacific International Expo. So, I saw Jeff at the show and bought a So-Called Dollar from the Pan Pac Expo which features the same Tower of Jewels.

There were a number of buildings at the expo in 1915, but at over 400 feet the Tower of Jewels was at least 200 feet taller than all the others. It could be easily seen from the far away hills of San Francisco. And it was covered with 102,000 "Novagems", cut crystal 'jewels' from Bohemia (in the Czech Republic). They were made of several colors and mounted on brass hangers with a small mirror behind them, so they appeared to shimmer—particularly if there was a breeze. New 'gems' were sold at the expo, and after the exposition was finished they sold the gems off the building for \$1 each. The used gems often had chips from blowing around in the wind. On a few occasions, there was an event in the evening called "Burning the Tower". Special red lights were shone on the building, and it appeared to be consumed by fire- but never burned. Jeff had a couple gems for sale at the coin show, and Merle was able to purchase one.

The So-Called Dollar is HK-416. The Tower of Jewels is on the obverse. The reverse features a battleship sailing through the Panama Canal and has the year 1915. It was well worth the effort to sell those gold tickets to be able to get this to add to my collection.



DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Gary C, Bob A, Riley R, Mike B, Bill S, Andy S, Guy S, and Dale C

50:50 pot of \$162 was split with Art P

Raffle: Gary C, Ed M, Andy S, Glenn M, Roger N, and others I did not write down

Gold Coin raffle: 1/10 ounce gold- Larry M

March Attendance: 65+

New Members: Russell J, # 972; Chris D, #973; and Wyatt L-S, #974 J—WELCOME!

Guests: yes!

Auction: 60+ exciting items

Adjournment was at 9:00 p.m. sharp!



KIDS CORNER

In March we discussed the show and welcomed donations from Joe Mc C. We also welcomed new junior member Levine S. He is in the first grade and is collecting Lincoln cents for Vol 1 of the series. Levine uses the "red book" and knows the key coins well. See you April 10 at 6:15-- Rich

Volunteers for **refreshments** for April are all of you who didn't/couldn't bring something to the March meeting- thanks!

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Club's meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from Highway 12), in the "**Dinner Room**" on the east side of the building, at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

April 5-7, 2019. Albuquerque Coin Club Spring Show. Marriott Albuquerque Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Rd NE, Albuquerque. This is the new club Gary C also joined

April 12-14, 2019. Coin, Currency, Stamp, and Sports Collectible Show. Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara.

April 26-27, 2009. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Spring Show. Four Points by Sheraton Sacramento International Airport, 4900 Duckhorn DR., Sacramento

April 28, 2019. Vallejo Numismatic Society 47th Annual Show. Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador, Vallejo

June 2, 2019. Sacramento Coin Show. Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover St., Sacramento

June 21-22, 2019. East Bay/Concord Coin Show. The Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Ave, Concord

July 27-28, 2019. Fremont Coin Club 46th Annual Show. Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

Check out our newsletter at: **Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you February 13— Charlie