

Western Mining Artifact Collectors Show

by Mark Mallicoat



Mike Nevius' working stamp mill was the site of the first gathering on Friday evening.

The Western Mining Artifact Show was held this past June 29th at the Miners Foundry in Nevada City, California. Nevada City, CA was this years chosen site and will be again next year.

The events began on Friday afternoon at the home of Mike & LaVeta Nevius in Nevada City. They have collected and beautifully arranged over 5 acres of old mining iron in what Mike calls his Rustic Iron Preserve. We had approx. 75-80 plus people in attendance as Mike demonstrated his operating 19th century 2-stamp mill.

The hillside around Mike's home are covered with old hydraulic monitors, mine cars, stamp mills, sinking buckets, mine shaft displays, and most everything you can think of that was used in mining operations. All of this old rusty equipment is set up, as it would have actually have been used in a mining operation. Dan's crew did a great job answering questions and putting on demonstrations for us all to enjoy. Linda and the crew then put on a feed for all of us.



Four-stamp mill at the Foundry where the swap meet and dinner was held.

Saturday the show was set up in the old Miners Foundry in downtown Nevada City. The old foundry was home of the first Pelton water wheel and manufactured hundreds of mine cars and other mining items for the gold rush days. The site itself is approx. 150 years old and an historical landmark for Nevada County. Approximately 100 collectors set up 60 tables of antique mining artifacts and was one of the larger shows. After the show we had a huge wonderful dinner prepared by Native Sons of the Golden West and an auction for more mining related goodies.



Mark Mallicoat's booth and his wife Toni keeping guard.



A general view of events at the Miner's Foundry.



Rick and Kitty Yarborough.



Mike Nevius, in the suspenders, makes the rounds.



Walt Goetz and Dottie Click socialize while husband Larry Click is chumming about with Errol Christman.

(below) No show would be complete without auctioneer Cap Tin Bob at the helm.



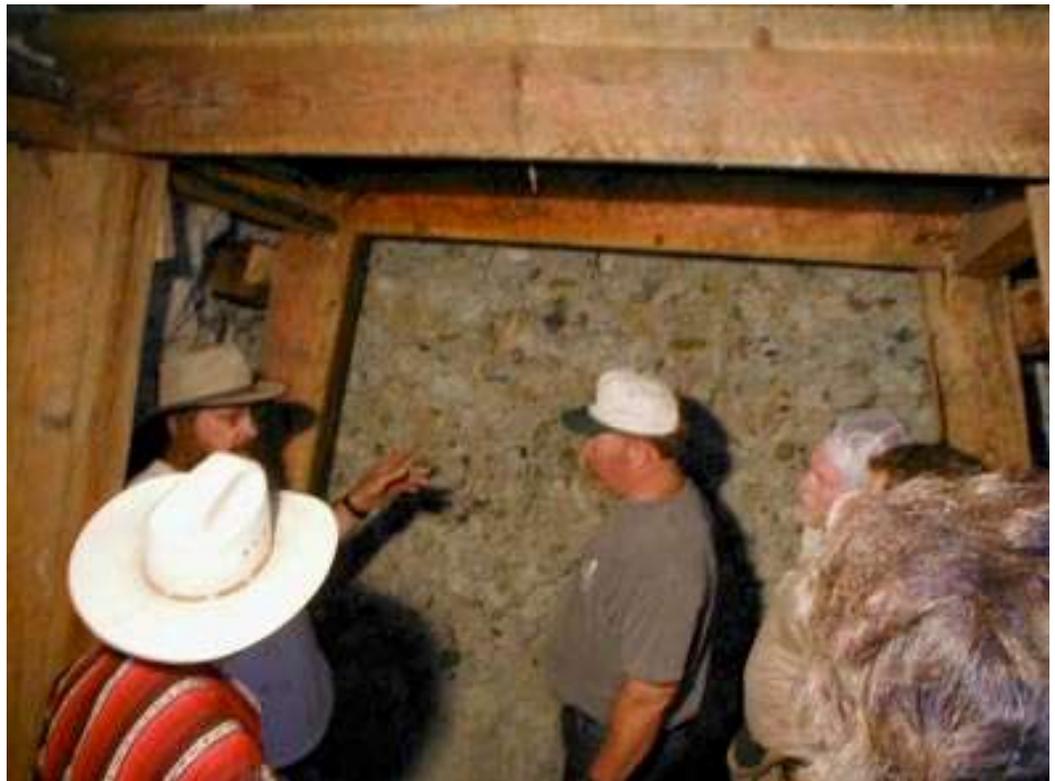


Mark Mallicoat and Dennis Kurlander celebrate a job well done.

The following Sunday morning we met at the Miners Foundry for a caravan to the Waukeshaw Mine run and owned by Dan and Linda Jasper. The mine was an hours drive from Nevada City of which 30 minutes were on paved road with another 30 minutes of dirt road. The Mine is located in a beautiful setting and Dan has taken great care to preserve the beauty of the area. You first drive by a large pond and continue down a dirt road to the mine office and living areas. Large pieces of antique hydraulic pipe are stacked from usage over a

100 years ago. The entire operation is run by a 4-foot Pelton water wheel that supplies all the power for the mine. The Mine is located right next to what was and old hydraulic mining operation back in the 1800's and they are now tunneling/drifting into the ancient river channel which was missed by the old timers.

The material is much like a cement and gravel consistency and the shaft requires a lot of heavy timbering. While hydraulic mining left many scars on the landscape this area has recovered beautifully in the past 100 years and a more gorgeous setting would be difficult to find. Dan led our group of 40-50 on a tour of his entire operation which included the power house with the operating Pelton water wheel, an antique blacksmith shop which is still in use today, a sawmill for cutting mine timbers, a tour of the underground workings, and the mill for the gold ore.



Inside the mine, showing the conglomerate material that is tunneled through.



Above: (clockwise) Riveted pipe, entrance to mine, blacksmith and power house, hydraulic monitor.

Left: Sawmill in operation.