

Richard Hauck Sterling Hill Mining Museum 30 Plant Street Ogdensburg, NJ 07439-1126

## California Gathering

A mining artifact gathering will be hosted by Don White at his new house in Cedar Ridge, California on May 23rd and 24th. Errol Christman has promised a well attended event with lots of new items. For details and directions call:

> Don White - (916) 274-8203 or Errol Christman - (916) 273-3268.

## The Kennedy Mine

Another California attraction is the Kennedy Mine, an underground gold mine in the heart of the Mother Lode country. The Kennedy Mine Foundation has restored the surface facilities of this deep (over 5,000 feet) and rich (over 34 million in gold) mine by contributions and volunteer work. If you would like to visit, contribute or just get additional information, contact:

Mary Ann Tortorich 221 Hoffman Street Jackson, CA 95642 (209) 223-9542

# **Photographing Artifacts**

#### **Outdoor Photos**

The sun is one of the best light sources except that it is very directional and sometimes too bright, causing shadows that obscure many details. To reduce the shadows use a flash to fill in the areas that the sun doesn't reach. If you don't have a flash or you have the type of camera that will not fire the flash in bright sun, use a piece of white cardboard or aluminum foil to reflect the sunlight into the shadows thus bringing out more detail.

Diffuse lighting is better that direct sunlight. An inexpensive, lightweight solution is to carry some cheesecloth. Spread one or two layers of cheesecloth between two sticks, poles or dowels, so that the light passes through the cheesecloth before striking the object. This will yield a more uniform light and pleasing results.

#### **Indoor Photos**

One of the most important things to remember when doing indoor flash photography is to move the artifact (or person) away from the walls. A flash will create a harsh shadow of the object on the wall rendering the photo less pleasing.

Remember too that most flashes are only effective from 5 to 15 feet, (especially in point and shoot cameras). Using a flash on an object under 5 may cause too much light to reach the subject and cause a hot spot which will "burn out" the image information in the photograph. At distances over 15 feet, many flash units are unable to produce enough light to adequately illuminate the subject.

The Color of Light

All light is not the same. Every light source has a color temperature measured in degrees Kelvin. The explanation of color temperature is to take a "Black Box" and apply heat to it and measure the temperature in degrees Kelvin. As the temperature is increased, the color radiated from the "box" changes from red to orange to yellow, etc. The



lower the color temperature the redder the light. Each light source is assigned a color temperature based on the color properties of the light emitted:

 $100 \text{ watt light bulb} = 2740^{\circ} \text{ K}$ Photo flood =  $3200^{\circ} - 3400^{\circ} \text{ K}$ Fluorescent =  $3500^{\circ}$  -  $5000^{\circ}$  K\*  $Flash = 5000^{\circ} - 7500^{\circ} K$ Noon Sun =  $5500^{\circ}$  K+ Afternoon Sun =  $4800^{\circ}$  K Late Afternoon Sun =  $4300^{\circ}$  K

\* Most fluorescent tubes emit a light spike

in the green area of the color spectrum. We do not see the spike, but the film does.

Keep these temperatures in mind when photographing objects where the color of the object is important. If you are serious about your photographs, filters are available at camera stores that correct for color temperature and for shooting pictures under fluorescent lights.

When submitting photos for this publication, glossy originals yield the best results. If you have any questions you can reach me at (702) 425-1944 or E-Mail me at 



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