

Bill and Jan's Vacation

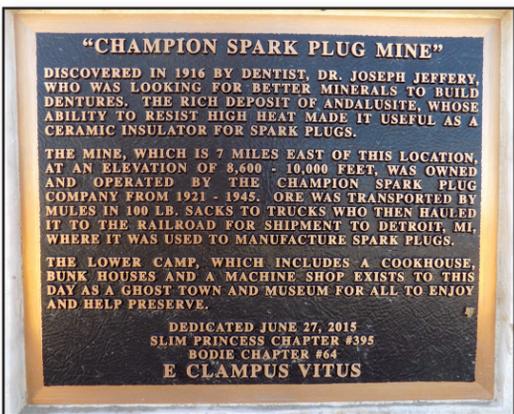
Continued from last week's commentary.

Trusting God, Part 2

by Bill Lembright

Following the tradition of watching for and recognizing what appear to be acts of God on our behalf, on Saturday, September 16, I told Jan that I believed this was the day we should tackle the most intense hike of our vacation. We planned it based on instructions from the book Inyo-Mono SUV Trails written by Roger Mitchell and published 20 years ago. Believe me, MUCH has changed in that time!

After a smooth 19-mile drive north out of Bishop on US Rd, we exited east onto White Mountain Ranch Rd. While I was taking a picture of this



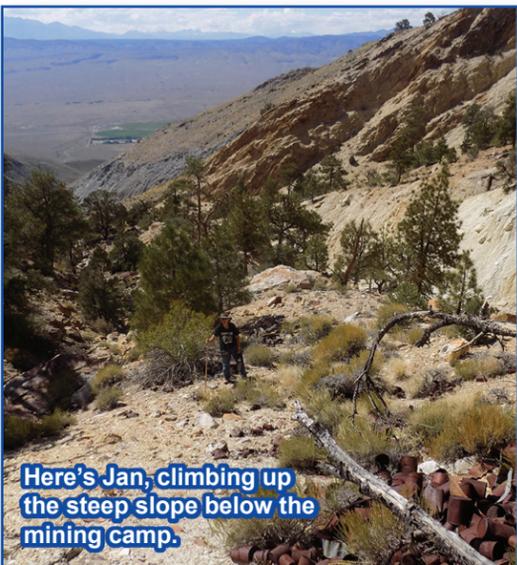
historical marker commemorating the Champion Spark Plug Mine, three other Jeeps also turned onto our road and parked. I introduced us to the trio of drivers, learned they were heading to the same location and asked if we could tag along.

In less than a mile of driving up a sketchy dirt trail, the road was obliterated by the recent flashfloods ushered in by Hurricane Hillary. I volunteered to jog a distance and relocated our trail. For three long miles we drove up and down desert washes where, unnoticed by me, our Jeep's rear hatch opened and I lost one of our two spare tires. At the 3-mile point, our book said we had another rough 1.4 miles to drive to the old pack-mule trail that would lead to our destination. However, floods and debris slides over the 20 years had obliterated that road entirely, so our planned steep four-mile hike turned into a steep 6.8 mile hike over many rocks, boulders, and often dense brush.

When we finally reached the lower end of the pack-mule trail from the mine thousands of feet above us, we took time to appreciate the task each endured hauling a load of 400 pounds of



andalusite from which spark plugs were made. The trail was steep and washed out just as the haul road below had been. About a mile up the trail we saw four other hikers coming down the trail who had started out earlier in the morning than we. Our trail was completely washed away and they had to slide down the cliff. I was convinced that Jan and I would be unable to slide UP that cliff, so I searched for an alternate route. We found one, but all of this eats up time, and the way was even steeper.

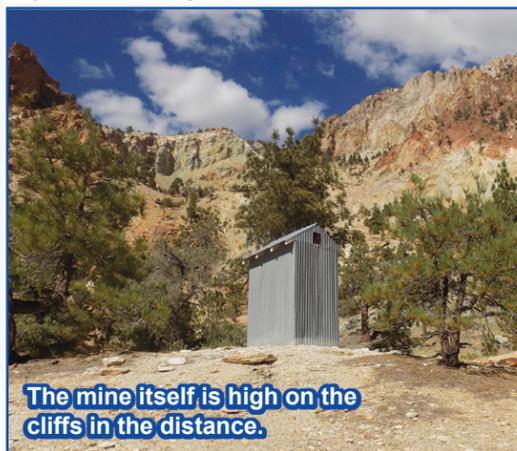


At 4:30PM we finally reached the Black Eagle Mining Camp, rested, and took numerous photos. The camp was well preserved due to the efforts of volunteers to repair and upkeep it, plus the fact that the type of people who would go to all the trouble to reach it, were not the looting and vandalizing type. There were numerous lodging cabins, a cookhouse, outhouses, machine shop, and storage buildings.



We didn't have time for the four-hour hike to the mine on cliffs near the mountain's peak high above the camp.

At the mining camp, when Jan pulled her cell phone from a pouch, her credit cards and driver's license fell out. She didn't know they fell out but just happened to spot them lying on the ground. Imagine how upsetting and time-consuming it would have been had she discovered they were missing the next day without any idea what might have happened to them.



By 5:15 p.m. we started back down the steep mountain, trying to retrace our steps to avoid the impassable cliff that challenged the four rock-climbers we encountered on the way up. I was asking God to help us make it back before nightfall. We made it to the Jeep at 7PM exhausted and thirsty. We had loaded my backpack with water, but it still wasn't enough.

We had asked both the other groups of hikers to keep their eyes open for our spare tire and as we returned down the dirt road, we found they placed it right in the middle of the road so we couldn't miss it.

We arrived back at our trailer at 9PM. Long day, long tough hike! We reflected over the events of the day, especially watching for and recognizing possible acts of God on our behalf such as the three Jeeps arriving at exactly the three minutes during which we parked as I took pictures of the historical marker. Then with NO car tracks visible because of flooding by tropical storm Hillary, we were able to pick up the trail, how I lost the spare tire and retrieved it, how we were able to find our way in spite of the near total obliteration of roads and trails by 20 years of flash floods and debris flows, how we met up with the returning hikers who had to slide down the cliff in the absence of the washed out mule trail so that we took an alternate route, how Jan just happened to spot her credit cards and driver's license on the ground, how we made it over the mountains before dark, and how NO cars had made the trip in the three weeks since the tropical storm, but how five cars made the trip that morning and whose passengers were a help to each other.

Yes, this could all be happenstance, but if YOU had asked God to open YOUR eyes to His actions on your behalf that day, wouldn't YOU consider crediting those multiple events that helped YOU as likely having come deliberately from HIM? We certainly do and we have repeatedly thanked Him. And when we do, we sense He smiles. And when GOD's happy, EVERYBODY's happy!

HAUNTED GHOST TOWN
 October 28th, 6pm-10pm
 Admission is **FREE**
 30200 Del Oro Rd, Lucerne Valley
CANDY - GAMES - FACE PAINTING
SNACKS FOR PURCHASE
 Presented by the Lucerne Valley Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce

Mitsubishi Cement Corporation
 Educational Foundation

RUN IN THE ROCKS
 Oct. 21, 6pm-10pm
 Lucerne Valley High School
 33233 Rabbit Springs Rd.
 Registration 7:00am - 7:46am
 5k START - 8:00am

Register at **ACTIVE.COM**

HALLOWEEN TAILGATE TRICK OR TREAT!

SIGN-UPS FOR SPONSORSHIPS & TAILGATE SPOTS SATURDAYS
 October 21 & 28
 9:00 A.M - Noon

ON THE PORCHES HERE AT THE STORE Come sign up!
 The Tailgate Trick or Treat will be held on October 31 in the parking between the Library and Senior Center.
 Hosted by the Lucerne Valley Roadrunners

LVEDA Meeting
 (Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Note Date: **Monday, October 30**
 (No longer the first Monday of the month)
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
 on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- Regular reports from our County, State, Federal, and School representatives. "Meet Assemblyman Lackey's new field rep."
- Results of our requests regarding various issues involving our Solid Waste transfer station, dump cards, illegal dumping, etc.
- Violations that Code Enforcement has abated, what is on its list to be done, etc.
- Weeds along County and State road shoulders. Can pre-emergent herbicides be used?
- LV's changing demographics/housing/etc.
- State grants for Disadvantaged Communities.
- Future of the China House.
- Reports on all the community events in October.
- Announcements.

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

If you homeschool your kids then they won't fit in with society!

Exactly.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

BEFORE AND AFTER

COCAINE ALCOHOL

CRACK COLLEGE

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 1959 & 2023

HONEST TO GOODNESS TRY

THINGS WENT TERRIBLY WRONG

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

The Babylon Bee @TheBabylonBee

World Economic Forum Introduces Pumpkin Spice Crickets
buff.ly/3Bxe7G7

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