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Our Next Meeting

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FEBRUARY 13, 2018 Dinner Meeting Abstract

“Mining History of Selected Gold Mines in Tulare and Kern Counties, California”

by:

Presented by: Gregg Wilkerson

ABSTRACT:

Following the discovery of gold on the American River in 1848, gold prospectors fanned out across the Bear Flag Republic and in just a few years developed mines in the Mineral King, Globe, White River, Cove, Keyesville, Greenhorn, Long Tom, Kern River, Erskin Creek, Clear Creek, Piute Mountains and Loraine districts. Havilah was the original seat for Kern County and White River was one of the first non-Mexican settlements of Tulare County. Placer gold dominated early production and was followed by lode (hard rock) mines that featured free gold. Those deposits had gold that was easily recovered through gravity and mercury amalgamation techniques. Later, advances in metallurgy allowed for recovery of gold from sulfide deposits through flotation and roasting. After 1910 some deposits recovered gold through cyanide leaching. Of the thousands of deposits in the area of those early districts, only a few gold mines are still in operation. This is not because of the geology of the deposits. In a perfect world, geology rules. Unfortunately, we are also governed by politics.

BIO:

Gregg Wilkerson is a Professional California Geologist with 45 years of multi-cultural experience in the fields of geology, economic analysis, mining history and environmental management. This experience includes tours of duty at 3 universities, 6 mining companies, and 2 government agencies since 1974. He coordinated complex interdisciplinary projects involving teams of up to 20 specialists for mineral resource appraisal and has managed or evaluated projects in the western United States, Canada, Mexico, Chile and Honduras.

