

Gold panning can be easy and fun

# Man's gold hobby pans out

**United Press International**  
SEATTLE — Bill Sullivan, who panned gold for necessity during the Great Depression, now pans for fun and teaches others how to, also.

"When I was a forestry student at the University of Montana in Missoula in the '30s, I'd work hard and collect about 14 ounces a year," he recalls. "The price of refined gold was pegged at \$35 an ounce, but I'd get the

'creek bed' price of about \$18 and that would about cover my tuition."

Sullivan says he didn't think much about panning for gold until he began making plans to retire from his job as an industrial engineer.

"I recognized gold had terrific recreational possibilities, and I found I was getting bit again by the gold bug myself," he said. He plunged into research,

reading old newspaper accounts and records in public libraries and universities plus data supplied by agencies of the various states.

Sullivan says he developed a good understanding and perspective on the gold taken from Alaska and the West since 1850, so he designed maps charting the gold "hot spots" in the West and authored two books, "The Gold Game" and "Placer Pros-

pecting."

He estimates at least 3,000 men, women and children have come to public libraries or schools to take the free, three-hour course he teaches on the fundamentals of panning for

gold. Sullivan says he can teach anyone — even young children — how to pan for gold in 10 or 15 minutes. A rectangular plastic pan he uses makes the job easier and faster than the traditional round metal pan.

# Female detective has a great track record

**United Press International**  
SEATTLE — Janet Christensen, 29, is one of the few women who runs her own detective agency.

"If someone else already has worked on a problem and failed, I love to take over," she said in an interview. "I have an excellent track record. There's only two cases out of 312 that I haven't solved."

Her specialty is missing persons. Her rates are \$30 an hour or \$200 a day plus expenses.

"There's a lot of satisfaction out of bringing a family together," she said. In one of her favorite cases, she united a 7-year-old girl with her mother in time for Christmas two years ago.

The divorced father had abducted his daughter.

"Her father told her she would never see her mother again. She was very sad," Christensen said.

Christensen tracked down the father and daughter and called police to arrest the man and hold the daughter for her mother.

"In the police car, the girl drew a little heart and said, 'Give

this to my Mom.' It was very touching and it was really something to see the girl and her mother together again," she said. "They're forever grateful. I still hear from them."

Christensen said the detective business for a woman is not living life like someone from "Charlie's Angels" but she said she has experienced danger:

"I've jumped from a burning car. I've had to scale a high fence. I've been wrestled and thrown to the floor."

But she said she is not afraid. "You can't afford to be afraid and do your work. If you're afraid, you should go into other work."

She said there was strong evidence an incendiary device had been placed in her car the day the engine burst into flames as she was driving:

"I had a lot of documented evidence. They were trying to warn me. I had too much evidence. I found witnesses no one else could find. They were worried, and they should have been. They all got 35 to 45 years in prison."

Christensen had a simpler explanation for jumping over a

high fence: "Two Dobermans."

She said she and the women she hires keep themselves fit in the self-defense art of judo, but she doesn't carry a gun because "you set yourself up when you have a gun."

Born in Santa Cruz, Calif., Christensen lived for seven years in Eugene, Ore., where she attended the University of Oregon before moving to Seattle to complete her degree in criminal law at the University of Washington.

She started her Seattle Detective Bureau about three and one-half years ago after working two years as a criminal counselor and two years as a para-legal. Now she wants to go to law school, but not to quit work as a detective.

"I started this (detective) business from scratch," she said. "I intend to keep this business and to be running it for years to come."

"After I get my law degree, I'll either be a practicing attorney, maintaining my detective business, or a detective using my knowledge of law to expand in my work."

# Now you know

**United Press International**  
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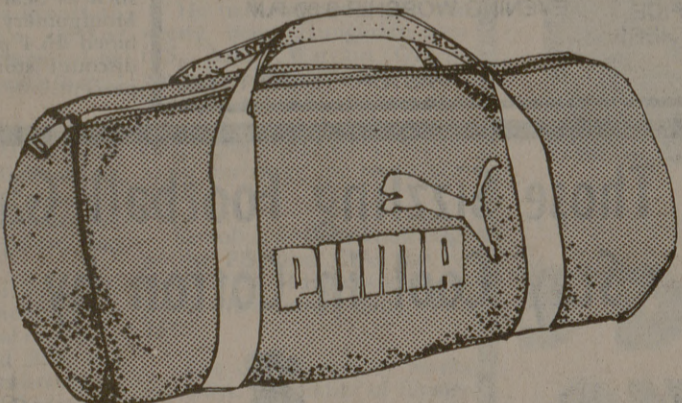
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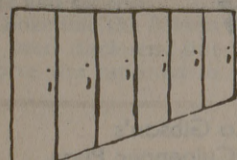


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