

Time Traveler Scooter McGinty in the...

# CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH!

January 24, 1848 – Near Sacramento, California





MEANWHILE, SAM BRANNAN BECAME CALIFORNIA'S FIRST MILLIONAIRE.

LAST WEEK, THIS TIN PAN COST 20¢!

NOW IT'S \$15. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

BRANNAN'S GENERAL STORE

UH, DO YOU HAVE ANY OINTMENT? I THINK THIS SCRATCH IS INFECTED.

IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD WAS CONSIDERED NOTHING BUT A RUMOR-- UNTIL DECEMBER 5, 1848, WHEN PRESIDENT JAMES K. POLK OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED IT.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY TO CONFIRM THAT THERE IS INDEED GOLD IN CALIFORNIA-- AND IT'S PLENTIFUL!

HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW. I WAS THERE. I SAW THE GOLD. SCRATCHED MY ARM PANNING FOR IT!

IN 1849, AFTER POLK'S SPEECH, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE-- CALLED "FORTY NINERS"-- FLOCKED TO CALIFORNIA. IT TOOK SIX MONTHS TO CROSS THE COUNTRY IN A WAGON. PEOPLE CAME BY SEA FROM OTHER PLACES, TOO: SOUTH AMERICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA & EUROPE. IT WAS TRULY A GOLD RUSH.

THIS TRIP WOULD BE MUCH FASTER BY TIME MACHINE!

SOON THE CALIFORNIA HILLS WERE FILLED WITH PEOPLE LOOKING FOR GOLD. SOME FOUND IT, MOST DIDN'T. (THE RICHEST POCKETS OF GOLD WERE BURIED FAR BENEATH THE GROUND--TOO FAR TO DIG BY HAND.) MERCHANTS CONTINUED TO PROFIT FROM THE MINERS, AS FOR JOHN SUTTER, HE LOST EVERYTHING AND WAS FORCED TO MOVE BACK EAST.



THAT LITTLE SPECK OF GOLD I FOUND HAS REALLY MESSED UP CALIFORNIA.

AH, BUT THE GOLD RUSH BROUGHT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES TO THE U.S. IT MADE CALIFORNIA AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR GROWING COUNTRY. AND IT GAVE MANY AMERICANS NEW HOPE.

SO...MAYBE I'M NOT SUCH A BAD GUY AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE GOLDEN!



## SCOOTER'S QUICK QUIZ

1. Why were the miners called "Forty-Niners"?
2. Who was the U.S. President whose speech sparked the Gold Rush?
3. Marshall's fellow workers accused him of finding "fool's gold." Can you guess what that means? Look it up to check your ideas.
4. Some Forty-Niners from the East Coast didn't travel by land to California. They went by boat. Which do you think is faster--traveling by land or by sea?
5. If you found gold, what would you do? Would you act more like John Sutter or more like Sam Brannan?