

The Gold Nugget

Vol. 8, No. 11

November 2003



In Memory of

Kenneth Barker

October 14, 1943 – October 30, 2003

It is with a sad heart that I must announce the passing of my good friend, fellow club member, and Vice-President of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies, **Ken Barker**. Ken passed away suddenly on Thursday, October 30.

He had been married to his wife Jackie for 38 years. They had three children, Michael, Christopher, and Nicole, and three grandchildren.

Ken also was a member of Gold Prospectors Association of America, Gold Prospectors of Colorado, and Lost Dutchman's Mining Association. He had been a long-time member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies and became Vice-President of the GPR in January 2003. He also was Chairman of the Demonstrations Committee and was responsible for having organized numerous panning demonstrations for public organizations. His efforts brought the club's name and activities to the public eye through newspaper articles and television appearances.

Graveside services will be held on Thursday, November 6 at 11:00 a.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery, 3698 South Sheridan Blvd. Reception following the services will be at the family home.

The family is requesting no flowers. If you wish to make a donation to the American Heart Association in Ken's name, you can send your check to the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies, PO Box 621988, Littleton, CO 80162-1988. Our treasurer will collect the donations and deliver them to the American Heart Association.

Ken's contribution to this club played a major role in the success we have enjoyed this year. His involvement in the gold prospecting hobby has been a true labor of love. To say he will be missed by all is an understatement.

Ken's article for the "VP's Corner" was sent to the newsletter editor just days before his passing and appears in its entirety in this edition of *The Gold Nugget*.

Although there will be an empty chair at the club meetings, Ken's legacy of gold prospecting will remain. It is the responsibility of each club member to carry on that legacy and keep the memory of Ken alive for years to come.

Gary Hawley, President
Gold Prospectors of the Rockies



Join Us on the Third Wednesday!

Lloyd G. Clements Community Center

1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado

(One block west of Wadsworth, then one block north of Colfax)

7:00 p.m. (Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

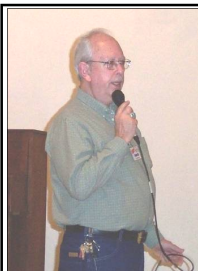
Information: (303) 932-1076

Website: <http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>



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The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, GPR President

Greetings to all members of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies!

Fall is definitely here and now is the time to enjoy the rich colors found on all the trees in the area. If you go gold panning in the next few days, take a few minutes to notice the colors and aroma of the changing seasons in the Rockies. It just doesn't get better than that!

The Club's activities have continued to be exciting again this last month. Central City's Visitors Center had us there for a panning demonstration during a three-day event they were sponsoring. Shawn and Pinie Conell arranged a tour of the Phoenix Mine in Idaho Springs. Be sure to check the GPR Events Calendar in the newsletter and plan to attend the activities as they become available.

It is again time for elections of Club Officers. Joe Shubert, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, has been seeking candidates for the various offices. He will accept nominations from the General Membership during our November meeting, with elections to be finalized at that meeting. Only members-in-good-standing can vote or be elected to office. It is important that you attend the November meeting so you can vote for the candidate of your choice.

The program for the November meeting is "Show & Tell." This will be an exciting event ONLY if members participate. Here's how it works: Tables will be set up in the meeting room where you can display anything you would like to show to the other members. If you are a bottle hunter, show us some of the bottles you have collected. Coin and jewelry hunters, display your finds. Gold diggers, show changes you have made to equipment or nuggets you have found or items made from the gold you have recovered. If you have a special collection, bring it in. There are no prizes for this event, just a fun time to share what you enjoy with our hobby. There are a few rules to follow for "Show & Tell:" 1) to help protect your property, you should stay with your display. 2) No one is to touch or handle any display without the permission of the owner. 3) Arrive a little early so your display is ready by meeting time.

The General Membership meeting is November 19, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

Until next time: May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.

VP's Corner

By Ken Barker, GPR Vice President

Many people ask me where can I find some good gold out on the streams. I will often respond by saying that it's all good gold, but I know they want to find the big stuff. Well, about 144 years ago most of the big stuff was found. That's not to say that you can't find some now, it's just that most of what you find will be small.

The key to finding any at all is to find as much as you can when you are out working hard. So to help you, here are some ideas.

This is very important! It is best to start off by looking in a stream that flows in a known gold producing area. You will want to "sample the stream" first to see if it is worth your time and effort.

Talk to people; do your homework. Local history books, local historians, and county court houses are great places to look. Old folks often know of areas to look.

Do not follow the trend that leads many prospectors to frustration. Most folks pull off the road and set up their equipment and start working. At the end of the day they think "what a waste of time this was." You know what? They are right. To sample a stream you will need: a shovel, a classifier, and a pan, along with permission from the land owner, if it is not public land.

Now is the time, even before you get out your equipment, to walk along the stream and take notice of how the stream is flowing. Where are the natural traps? Is there any bedrock that could be worked? Are there any sandbars that could be checked?

Pick a location on the stream where the stream dumps its sediment, such as the inside of a bend or the head or tail of a gravel/sand bar. The head of the sandbar will be the best location on the stream. The heaviest objects will "drop out" here. If the stream moves quickly enough, it will often push large objects across the bar and drop them on the backside.

Mark any possible locations; this can be done using old bread bags and a marker.

Now let's go get that shovel, pan, and classifier.

Start at one location and classify and pan down a good sample of the material. Count the number of colors you find in the bottom of the pan. Now move a short distance and sample again. After you have sampled the area and counted the colors in each sample, you should be able to pick out the best spot to be worked.

Happy (and productive) prospecting!

Ken

November GPR Elections

By Joe Shubert, Nomination Coordinator

A final slate of candidates for next year's offices will be presented at the November meeting for voting. This is your club. Therefore, the people that you put into office will be the people that help run the club the way you want it to be. For this to happen, you need to either nominate someone for an office or run for an office yourself.

The elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Board Member 2-Year term, and Board Member 1-Year term.

Let's keep this club a good club for everyone. Let's make this a good election, too. Turn in your nominations or interest to run for an office to me before the start of the November meeting.

Several members have agreed to run for office again and comprise our current slate of nominees.

The positions for which we need nominations from the floor are indicated by the blanks in the table at the right.

President	Gary Hawley
Vice President	
Treasurer	Kathy Hawley
2-Year Board Member	Pinie Conell
2-Year Board Member	
2-Year Board Member	Ken Oyler
Board Member	Sue Clover
Board Member	Shawn Conell
Board Member	Allen Mershon
Board Member	Jeff Mosteller
Board Member	
Board Member	Joe Shubert

Prospecting in Colorado

By Allen Mershon

The following is from a presentation given at the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies general meeting by long-time member, Allen Mershon. ~ed

The specific gravity (SG) of a substance is the ratio of its weight to the weight of an equal volume of water. Average specific gravities of some of the materials a prospector might encounter in Colorado's Rockies are

As you can see, most rock (and sand and dirt) is one-half to one-

2.7 - rock	5.1 - magnetite	10.5 - silver
2.7 - quartz	5.3 - hematite	11.3 - lead
4.2 - copper	7.3 - tin	13.6 - mercury
4.3 - garnet	7.5 - galena	19.2 - gold
5.1 - pyrite	7.9 - iron	21.5 - platinum

seventh lighter than other materials a prospector may find and will float over the edge of a gold pan leaving the heavier materials in the bottom. The old miner knows that garnet is found in the Rockies and is often found associated with placer gold. So, when you are gold panning in the mountains, remember that "garnet is your friend!"

The secret of gold deposition is in the "venturi effect" or, more properly, the reverse of this effect. The speed of a fluid increases when forced through a more restricted area--this configuration forms a venturi. In a suction nozzle, the venturi effect, produced by the lessening of the diameter of the water intake to the system, creates a powerful fluid jet. In a flowing creek, after water enters the wide end at the top of a V-shaped canyon, the speed of the water at the narrow bottom end of the convergence is much faster. And, as we know, fast water can carry and move more and heavier elements. The reverse is true, however, when the enclosing walls of a creek widen; the speed of the flow of the water slows and any large and heavy materials carried by the stream are more likely to settle to the bottom because the water flow no longer has the force to carry them.

Moving water stratifies material. Thus, dropped into the ocean's surf, a gold ring can sink more than two feet in a matter of minutes. The same is true of the materials carried along by the moving water of a mountain stream. The flare on a sluice creates a venturi effect as it narrows and a reverse venturi effect when the water flow encounters the wide spacing of the sluice's walls, dropping heavier materials between the sluice's riffles. Thus, when using a sluice, you need to be aware of the optimum flow of the speed of water over your riffles. The "magic number" is 8 feet per second. This can be approximated over time by the experienced miner or can be determined accurately with a flow meter attached to a sluice. Water flowing faster than 8 feet per second continues to carry gold. Slower than 8 feet per second, gold can no longer remain suspended and is dropped out of the water flow.

Knowledge of the venturi effect can help you find gold in nature. Just as in a V-shaped canyon, anything that creates a venturi in a gold-laden stream will deposit gold when the venturi is no longer in effect (so to speak). It is why gold collects where the stream flows more slowly through a curve and deposits a sand bar. It is why gold collects behind a boulder. It is why gold is deposited into the bottom of v-shaped cracks in bed rock. It is why gold can be found where a stream widens into a pond. It is why, in slow water, you have to dig deeper to find gold. And, it is why you can find "values" in the thousands of v-shaped, vortex-producing pockets of the blue Nomad Matting (miner's

moss) that you have used to replace that outdated rippled carpeting in your sluice! (You haven't done that yet? Then you're losing precious gold!)

Virtually every commercially-produced sluice can be modified in some manner to make it more useful to the weekend miner. Whereas the ancients used sheepskin and the not-so-ancients used burlap bags, the materials produced today to capture gold in a sluice are far superior. Under the riffles in your sluice, consider laying a three-layer medium constructed of (from top to bottom) miner's moss, Astroturf, and ribbed rubber matting. With this configuration, you can capture even the gold fines that you may have been missing.

Gold is most likely to be found under a stream bed at the level of bed rock. When viewing and "reading" a stream, however, remember that below the surface rocks, gravel, and sand of the bottom, carbonates can form a more or less cemented layer. This layer is called "caliche" and it forms a "false bottom" that also can catch and retain particles of heavy materials, such as gold. So, look around streams for places where prehistoric channels left their benches. Although Colorado doesn't have a lot of productive benches, if you can find a caliche layer, prospecting on top of that layer in a known gold-producing area might prove rewarding!

Everyone, well every prospector, has heard the saying, "Gold is where you find it." Sometimes, you just have to get away from the obvious places where you expect to find gold and take the "dumb man's path." That path is the trail away from your diggin's and along the banks and benches of the stream where only an animal would trek. Way back when, some of those dumb miners tripped over "lodes" of gold that way.

Besides your shovel, pan, and sluice, what else should you take with you when prospecting? Waders and skivvies, of course! Why? To keep out the cold!

When the large muscles of your body are immersed in cold water, you lose body heat rapidly. When you get very cold, your autonomic nervous system takes over those muscles and you start shivering uncontrollably. If this happens, get out of the water and begin walking around, especially uphill, because seventy-five percent of large muscle activity produces heat!

The expected survival time of an adult submersed in water of 40 degree Fahrenheit (4.44 degrees Celsius) can be as little as 1/2 to 1 hour. In air of the same temperature, you can live as long as 8 hours or so. On the other hand, were you to lie down unprotected on the ground to go to sleep you could wake up dead just 8 hours later!

Hypothermia

Compiled by Dick Oakes

What is Hypothermia?

Hypothermia, the number-one killer of most people lost in the mountains, is a condition in which the body loses heat faster than it can be produced and the body's temperature drops lower and lower. Heat loss is usually attributed to cold, wet, and wind, the CWW (SEE-dub-dub) of the mountains, and normally develops when air temperature drops to between 50 and 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

Losing Body Heat

The body loses heat in five ways: Convection, Conduction, Respiration, Evaporation, and Radiation.

Convection: The primary function of clothing is to keep a layer of warm air next to the skin, but allows water vapor (perspiration) to pass outward. The body continually warms this layer of air close to

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the body. A wet suit uses this same theory, but when a person falls into the water you are chilled for a few moments before the water next to your skin is warmed by your body. A dry suit has less initial shock because water does not get inside to start with so the clothing you wear under the dry suit captures the air to retain your warmth. Heat is lost rapidly with the slightest breeze unless you wear a nylon or gortex shell over your clothing to prevent the warm air from being lost. The cooling effect of wind chill is equal to that of much lower temperatures due to the increased evaporation and convection. You must have wind protection and good insulating value (dead air space) for your clothing to retain your body heat at a safe level.

Conduction: Heat is conducted away from the body when you are being rained on and large amounts of heat rapidly leave your body when you become wet through rain, snow, or perspiration. Conduction also happens when you lie on the ground, sit in the snow, or even hold cold equipment. Wool clothing, or newly designed synthetic materials (such as fiberfill) allow clothing to become wet with less heat loss. In very cold conditions, be sure to sit or sleep on a closed-cell insulating pad.

Respiration: Heat escapes when you breathe out. By covering your mouth and nose area with wool (preferably) or cotton cloth, you will reduce this loss of heat.

Evaporation: Heat leaves your body as your skin dries. In addition, moisture expelled from the lungs also causes heat loss. Wear clothing that does not absorb moisture but will breathe and can be ventilated. Also carry clothing that can be added or removed in layers.

Radiation: The largest amount of body heat is radiated from uncovered skin, particularly through the head, neck, hands, and feet. Be sure to keep these areas adequately covered to prevent heat loss. Also, heat lost from the sides of the upper body is dangerous, as the sides are thin and close to the body's inner core.

It may take only 10 to 15 minutes of exposure to cold before the temperature of the heart and brain start to drop. So, when prospecting, never do so without a buddy--especially in cold weather--and be sure to keep a lookout for the early symptom of hypothermia.

Recognizing Hypothermia

In the Rockies, placer prospectors are, of course, involved with water. Hypothermia can be a threat in any water under 70 degrees Fahrenheit (F), especially without a wetsuit, because water conducts heat away from the body 25 times faster than air of the same temperature. Were you to remove your clothes and stand outside on an overcast 40-degree day for a half hour, you'd feel the same as being in 40-degree water for one minute, even wearing street clothes. Winds can chill the body as well. A 20-knot wind takes 40 degrees Fahrenheit down to a freezing wind-chill-factor of 30 degrees. Brrrr! When prospecting and you are exposed to wind, cold, or wetness, think "hypothermia" and keep a close watch on yourself and others for its symptoms.

The first and only sign you will have that you are on the verge of severe hypothermia is persistent shivering that you cannot stop by consciously relaxing your body. Your inner core temperature has dropped from 98.6 degrees F, is approaching 96.0 degrees, and your blood getting to your heart and brain has begun to cool. Even before it gets to this first sign, you must stop what you are doing and get warm. Get into a car with the heater on high or make camp and build a hot

Mr. Speaker, I Nominate . . .

Every candidate or nominee for office must be a Club member in good standing. The candidates for President and Vice President shall be persons who have been active as Committee persons, or Officers, or Directors during the previous year.

RULES OF VOTING

1. **ORDER OF VOTING:** The order of vote shall be for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Directors.
2. **DIRECTORS:** Four (or more) directors at-large are elected to serve with the three elected officers as the GPR Board of Directors. Some serve for two years; others serve for one year.
3. **LACK OF CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE:** Should there be no candidate for a particular office, an additional director shall be elected. The newly elected Board shall convene immediately following the election to appoint one of their elected members to fill that office until such time as a special election may be held.
4. **MORE THAN ONE OFFICE:** A member may run for more than one office. If a member is elected President, then that nominee's name shall be removed from election for subsequent offices according to the Order of Voting.
5. **NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR:** Nominations for elected office will be accepted from the floor at the November regular meeting from a member-in-good-standing in attendance or by proxy from a member-in-good-standing. The member nominated must have agreed to run for a particular office prior to being brought to the floor as a nominee. Proxy nominations may be made by e-mail, telephone, or mail to the Coordinator of the Nominating Committee who shall deliver the proxy nominations at the November meeting. All proxy e-mail, telephone, or mail nomination messages must be received no later than 8:00 p.m., Mountain Time, the day prior to the November meeting.
6. **ELECTION:** Nominees are elected to office only by members-in-good-standing present at the November regular meeting of the GPR. No Absentee Ballots will be accepted.
7. **OFFICE OF GENERAL MEETING RECORDER:** The Recorder is an Appointed Office. Members are encouraged to volunteer or recommend another member for this office. The duties of the Recorder are outlined in the GPR Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and include taking notes at general club meetings.
8. **OFFICE OF BOARD MEETING RECORDER:** The Recorder is an Appointed Office. Members are encouraged to volunteer or recommend another member for this office. The duties of the Recorder are outlined in the GPR Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and include taking notes at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

fire. If you wait until your shivering becomes violent and uncontrollable, you may not have enough control of your shaking hands to even build a fire.

The second stage of hypothermia is loss of coordination, stumbling, slurred speech, mental confusion, and the refusal and inability to recognize the problem in the first place. At this second stage, when your body's inner core has dropped to around 93.0 degrees F, all of these signs can occur at the same time. Of course, if you have the inability to recognize the problem, it is too late for you to do anything about it and to survive you must rely upon others to save you before you reach the next stage of hypothermia.

When your body's inner core temperature approaches 90 degrees F, the third and final stage of hypothermia is evidenced by unresponsiveness, decreased pulse rate, slowed breathing, cessation of shivering, physical collapse, and probably unconsciousness. If you are not treated immediately, death will quickly follow as the body's inner core temperature plunges below 85 degrees F and heart failure occurs.

(Continued on page 5)

GPR Events Calendar					
Month	Date(s)	Time(s)	Activity	Information	Presenter/Coordinator(s)
Nov	19	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
	22		Tour	Western Mining Museum, Colorado Springs	Shawn & Pinie Conell
Dec	13		Tour	Colorado History Museum, Denver	Shawn & Pinie Conell
	17	6:30 p.m.	Program	GPR Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner	
Jan 2004	21	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
	24-25		Seminar	5th Annual Cripple Creek School of Prospecting	See story next month
Feb	18	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Mar	17	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Apr	21	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
May	19	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Jun	16	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Jul	21	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Aug	18	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Sep	15	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Oct	20	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Nov	17	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	
Dec	15	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:	

All GPR meeting presentations and trip activities are subject to change. Non-club prospecting-related events may be included for your information. Members attending any trip activities will be asked to **be sure to sign up or contact the event coordinator prior to the activity to allow planning for an estimated number of people** and so attendees may be contacted in the event of any change, cancellation, or rescheduling.

(Continued from Hypothermia, page 4)

Combating Chronic and Acute Hypothermia

Chronic hypothermia occurs over a long period of exposure from wind chill and wetness combined with exhaustion. The skin can become bluish-gray in color and violent shivering develops, giving way to muscle spasms, possible loss of the ability to control the use of your arms and legs, and drunken-like confusion. To avoid the effects of chronic hypothermia:

1. Stay dry. Put on rain gear before you become wet.
2. Keep moving.
3. Wear several layers of light clothing.
4. Wear wool, as it traps body heat even when wet.
5. When dredging or sniping, wear a wet suit.

Acute hypothermia happens when you are in very cold water, especially when you fall into cold water. When dealing with cold water, life expectancy is reduced significantly, but you can survive if you:

1. Always wear a float-coat or personal flotation device (PFD) to insulate the body when near water.
2. Keep your clothing on in the water to trap body heat.
3. Don't thrash around, as flowing water conducts more heat away from your body.
4. Draw your legs to your chest and wrap your arms around them in a huddle while rescue efforts are underway.



Shawn Conell combats hypothermia by wearing a wet suit as he dredges for that elusive metal, gold!

You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar, assuming you want to catch flies.

GPR Tours

The Phoenix Gold Mine

Saturday, October 25, 2003

The Gold Prospectors of the Rockies went on an outing to the Phoenix Mine in Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, Colorado, on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Members attending were **Ken Barker, Shawn & Pinie Conell** (who arranged the tour), **Joe Johnston, Dick & Carol Oakes, Rose Stewart, Doug Taylor, Mike & Yvonne Weidman,** and **Larry & Shirley Weilnau.**

The mine, located on Trail Creek at 8,200 feet in elevation, is a working gold and silver mine owned and operated by third-generation hard-rock miner Alvin "Al" Mosch. As we found out, the mine's temperature hovers between 42 and 54 degrees F. year round, so it's good to wear a jacket no matter what month you arrive, as Al's tour can last from one to two hours! Miners still push tons of gold and silver ore along the narrow-gauge rails in small underground ore cars, just as they did 150 years ago. Because this is a working mine that caters to others interested in mining, be sure to wear sturdy shoes. You are welcome to bring your still and video cameras, too!

For the enthusiast, the price of the mine tour includes an opportunity to try your hand at gold panning (gold pans are provided) in the stream that runs through the mine property. There are also picnic tables and barbecue pits alongside the stream. Stroll the property and view the many pieces of old mining equipment. Nature lovers can spend the day in the beautiful Alps Mountain area on Trail Creek. Ghost towners can travel up the creek to the ghost town locations of Freeland and Lamartine.

Al has converted the lighting of the Phoenix to solar-powered electricity, having installed 18 solar panels on the mountain above the mine portals. If Al can do it, surely other mines and businesses can become more environmentally responsible!

The Phoenix has some interesting history. In 1871, a vein was discovered 1,000 feet west and above the current Phoenix Mine location by a man whose last name was, appropriately, Miner. The man sold the claim to two Cornwall, England, miners who found someone to grubstake them and buy the mine for \$5,000.00. They started mining the drift up by I-70 and went 1,000 feet--all by hand steel. Nothing of much value was found and the grubstaker was getting nervous and thinking about getting out so the two miners took him to the Buffalo Bar and eventually talked him into investing more money. They went another 1,000 feet and struck it rich. They worked the mine until World War I, when they retired and returned to Cornwall because of a shortage of supplies to work the mine.

In 1930, the mine was sold in a tax sale to an Idaho Springs real estate man for \$20.00. The agent "salted" the mine by firing a shotgun loaded with gold into the dirt and sold it to a family of two Minnesota farmers named Gunderson for \$5,000. They went 30 to 40 feet further along the drift and struck ore. They went down 100 feet and the vein was 11 feet wide. They were getting a high output of 6 ounces of gold per ton of ore. Then, in 1934, the government devalued the dollar which raised the price of gold in the area from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per troy ounce. Bonanza!

In 1943, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt closed all gold and silver mines to divert miners to mining minerals needed for the war effort. After World War II, only a few mines re-opened. Gold was still valued at \$35.00 an ounce but was costing a much higher amount an ounce to process. Small miners, such as Al Mosch, had a rough time of it. The closest mill and assay office was in Montana. In 1960, the Guggenheim's Leadville smelter, the last in the west, was dismantled. Now, the closest smelter is in British Columbia. Small miners don't ship ore anymore as it is too expensive. They process their ore themselves. The Phoenix has a mill of its own just outside the mine entrance portals.

In 1972, Al bought the Phoenix for that magic number of \$5,000.00. At the time, he was working as a silver miner (prior to that, he had worked at the Climax Molybdenum Mine and mines in Utah). Al has since done a lot of "dead work," greatly adding to the workings, creating tunnels, blasting stopes, installing support beams, laying track, etc. In order to have the road up Trail Creek widened, Al donated some of his land to the county and reconstructed the mine buildings.

Al's mother, Betty, using a dowser's divining rod, located a vein 50 feet from the Phoenix vein and Al began working on what he called the "Resurrection" vein. The money gained from the Resurrection helped finance extending the old Phoenix Gold Mine workings. The aqua-colored Resurrection vein is very evident in the ceiling of the Shaker Table and Ball Mill rooms. The coloration is from copper oxidation.

Al's grandfather, Rudolf Gerhardt von Mosch, left Germany in 1881 at age 17 to come to the States. During World War I, he was known as George Marsh (he felt the name Rudolf Gerhardt was too German for the times in the U.S.). He then changed his name to George Mosch after the war. Rudolf died in 1952 at the age of 87.

George led in the 1st survey of the Moffat tunnel near James Peak and the Gold Run mine. He worked at Solomon's Bar & Grill in Denver for a while where he met indigent Horace Tabor after Tabor went broke. Al's dad, Hans, worked at the Bobtail Mine at Central City and the likeness of his Aunt Elsie became the Face on the Bar Room floor of the Teller House in Central



Alvin J. Mosch, October 25, 2003

City. His aunt Mattie, married to Han's brother nursed several people back to health when most in bars. Al's uncle Walt worked in Central City's the local mines.

Grandfather George also was a constable, enforcement history around. For more than 50 anyone in jail. He arrested men by sticking a 6-hands, and then marching them up to ten miles to them over whiskey through the night, then turned advice that they change their ways. George never languages by the time he was 17 years old. At the Tolland to Rollinsville to catch the train to a

The Mosch family is one of the longest Rudolf (George) to Hans to Al, and now to Al's about blasting when he blasted a road for a Before becoming a mining engineer, David had construction experience. With his family, David became a professor at the Colorado School of safety, blasting operations, mine planning, and with the department is as manager of the Edgar Experimental Mine is used to instruct mining mining engineering, such as drilling, blasting, haulage logistics, and mine ventilation.

Al Mosch is an accomplished storyteller who about the visit by members of the Vatican, including 30 high bishops and a cardinal. The cardinal blessed the mine when he found out Al plans to create a museum and donate the proceeds to handicapped children. Then there is another story about slave nuns . . . but we'll let Al tell you about them when you go to the mine yourself! We learned about the gold milling and refining process, listened for Tommyknockers (a.k.a Tommy-Knawkers), and kissed the mine's "Lucky Bucket." The Lucky Bucket has several stories of its own surrounding it about hundreds of people who rubbed or hugged or kissed it, had phenomenal good luck, and wrote Al about it. Al asks that all who touch the bucket send him their good-luck stories. Encouraged to set his stories down in writing, Al has written three books (so far): *Legend of the Silver Senator*, *Hot Rock Derelicts*, and *The One Hundred Dollar Bill*. The first volume is 125 pages and the latter two have been combined into a single volume of 137 pages. Both volumes are available for purchase at the mine (he autographed them for us, too!). Also in the works are Beth Simmons' release of Al's biography and John Eastman's collaboration with Al on some of his fiction books. Jo Petit is working on a book titled *A Walk in Al's Shoes*, which was due out in December of 2002 but has not been completed.

In the mine you'll find "The Widow Maker," a 150-pound compressed-air-powered, one-man rock drill that was just about guaranteed to kill its user after three years of use prior to the use of water to cut the dust that caused silicosis of the lungs. Silicosis killed Al's Uncle Walt. Inside the west entrance portal you can see an ore car and view an advertising board for the Union Mining & Leasing Corporation. These boards were popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s to show their workings, buildings, and samples of their ore, all in one exhibit. While at the mine, enter an adit. Feel country rock. Walk up a foot wall. Look up a stope. Look down an incline winze. Skirt a cavein. Dodge an ore chute. Spy a R.I.P. marker. Peer into a forbidden zone. Veer into a drift. Dig into a filled ore cart. Behold a vein of gold ore. See a ball mill. Watch a jaw crusher. Come face to face with a face. Hang out with the gangue. Watch out for a grizzly. Join the reserves. Duck a hanging wall. Locate a trend. Observe a shaker table. But wait--there's more (I just can't find my thesaurus).

TV's *Unsolved Mysteries* has filmed at the Phoenix Mine and a new movie due out in 2004, titled *Silver City*, was lensed in the interiors of Al's mines in September, as well as in Evergreen, in Leadville, and in downtown Denver. Reported to be in the cast, along with star Daryl Hannah, are Maria Bello, Thora Birch, David Clennon, Chris Cooper, Richard Dreyfuss, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, Danny Huston, Kris Kristofferson, Denis Leary, Cheech Marin, and Billy Zane. It is being directed by John Sayles and is being produced by Maggie Renzi, John's wife of 20 years! The plot thickens around a political drama/murder mystery that tells the story of a small town in Colorado and the events leading up to a local election, including the discovery of a man's body in a local lake. Filming was to have been wrapped up by October 31. Check the Internet to view the movie's trailers when they're available!

In two of Al's mines, ghosts have been seen--most notably an old miner who has been seen by several people in both mines, as well as unexplained touches on the shoulder or hair, etc. These experiences convinced Al to conduct his Ghost Mine Tours around Halloween each year. This year, GPR members helped out by being ghosts, ghouls, and a Tommyknocker! They were **Dick & Carol Oakes**, **Mike & Yvonne Weidmann**, and **Larry & Shirley Weinau**, as well as Larry & Shirley's son Steve and his fiancé Erin.

The Phoenix is open year round, weather permitting (call for closures), at 834 County Rd. 136 (Trail Creek Rd.). Mail to: PO Box 3236, Idaho Springs, CO 80452-3236. Telephone: 303/567-0422 (fax 303/567-9222). Open 10:00 a.m. daily to 6:00 p.m. from April through October and to 4:00 p.m. from November through March. Tours cost \$5.00 for children, \$10.00 for folks 12 and over, \$8.00 for seniors, and free for severely handicapped. School group discounts are available. Participation only in the gold panning experience is \$6.00. Reservations requested for groups over 20. For more information and a map, point your browser to the official website at <http://www.phoenixmine.com/>, created and maintained by Al's cousin Walter Richards' son, Lyle Richards. Another website, with lots of beautiful photos by Phoenix Gold Mine tour guide George Page, is at <http://www.phoenixgoldmine.com>.



Shirley Weinau kisses "Lucky Bucket"

Walt, was much loved in Central City as she doctors and nurses left the area. Mattie later sang Boodle Mine and his Uncle Rudy also worked in

making the family one with the longest law years, George arrested folks but never once put shooter in their backs, having them raise their Tolland where he usually fed them, visited with them loose in the morning with money and the drove and rarely rode a horse. He spoke seven age of 87, George walked five miles from Denver hospital.

continuous mining families in Colorado, from son David. As a 15-year-old, David learned neighbor who paid him with an old pickup truck. many years of practical mining and underground has operated several mines in Colorado. He Mines in 1997. His specialties include mine mineral economics. His primary responsibility Experimental Mine in Idaho Springs. The engineering students in practical aspects of equipment operation, equipment maintenance,

personalizes your tour experience. One story was

the mine when he found out Al plans to create a museum and donate the proceeds to handicapped children. Then there is another story about slave nuns . . . but we'll let Al tell you about them when you go to the mine yourself! We learned about the gold milling and refining process, listened for Tommyknockers (a.k.a Tommy-Knawkers), and kissed the mine's "Lucky Bucket." The Lucky Bucket has several stories of its own surrounding it about hundreds of people who rubbed or hugged or kissed it, had phenomenal good luck, and wrote Al about it. Al asks that all who touch the bucket send him their good-luck stories. Encouraged to set his stories down in writing, Al has written three books (so far): *Legend of the Silver Senator*, *Hot Rock Derelicts*, and *The One Hundred Dollar Bill*. The first volume is 125 pages and the latter two have been combined into a single volume of 137 pages. Both volumes are available for purchase at the mine (he autographed them for us, too!). Also in the works are Beth Simmons' release of Al's biography and John Eastman's collaboration with Al on some of his fiction books. Jo Petit is working on a book titled *A Walk in Al's Shoes*, which was due out in December of 2002 but has not been completed.

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West Portal of the Phoenix Gold Mine

Notes from GPR Meetings of October, 2003

Board Meeting

by Gary Hawley, President

Roll Call

In Attendance: Gary Hawley, Ken Barker, Pinie Conell, Shawn Conell, Jeff Mosteller, Joe Shubert, Ken Oyler, Wayne Hale, and Allen Mershon.

Quorum Present?

Yes.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Gary Hawley.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Read by Gary Hawley and approved as read.

Treasurer's report

Accepted as read and available at tonight's general meeting.

Correspondence

A newsletter from the RMPH club in Fort Collins.

Committee Reports

Nine committee reports submitted in writing by Dick Oakes.

Unfinished Business

Jefferson County Open Space: Gary Hawley. Whereas this situation has been resolved, until such time as Jefferson County Open Space notifies us of further meetings, this item will not appear as unfinished business again.

Adams County/Clear Creek: Sue Clover. Whereas this situation has not continued to be a problem and there has been no further contact with Adams County, this item will not appear as unfinished business again.

Club Trommel: Allen Mershon. Ongoing. Brothers Dale and Gale Herbertson have shown an interest in the trommel but there is concern about the method of transporting the trommel to their property.

Liability Insurance. Gary Hawley/Sue Clover/Debbie Lefor. Ongoing.

New Business

Elections and Nominating Committee. Joe Shubert. Joe will address the membership with information about the elections.

Non-Profit Status. Gary Hawley. The Club is now registered with the IRS and has an EIN (number). Gary will continue exploring IRS information and advise of any other registrations that may be needed.

Planned Outings

Refer to the Events Calendar posted in *The Gold Nugget*.

Announcements

Next Board meeting: November 19, 2003, at 6:00 p.m.

Tonight's general meeting program: Allen Mershon will talk about Prospecting in Colorado, including "miner's moss" and safety issues while prospecting.

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

General Meeting

By Dick Oakes, General Meeting Recorder

President Gary Hawley opened the club's general meeting by having past-president Jim Davis lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A video of the Channel 7 interview with Gary Hawley and Ken Barker was shown. Dick Oakes introduced new members and guests.

Kevin Nelson, of Central City's Main Street Central, awarded the club a plaque recognizing the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies as Goodwill Ambassadors for its participation in Central City's Heritage Days in 2002 and 2003 with the gold panning booth. He also announced that the Celebrate Central City Celebration was occurring on the 17th through the 19th featuring gold panning by the GPR, the Central City Gunfighters, "Baby Doe Tabor," "Governor Gilpin," and club member Dick Oakes as "Pecos Pete."

LeRoy Lango donated a belt buckle and a money clip for the evening's door prize drawings.

We had to reapply for a tax number to be able to receive a donation from the Vail Associates for our participation in the Gates Corporate Event. Ken Barker itemized our expenditures for gold purchased for the event. He thanked members who participated in the gold panning demonstrations at the Four Mile Historical Park's Pumpkin Festival, saying that we gave out around 500 cards to panners. He listed several of the venues to which the club has been invited to demo next year and asked for volunteers. (Remember folks, when you give an hour or more of your time at our panning demos, the club just might buy your dinner that day!) Ken said the club was planning to join Central City's historical association. Ken went on to say that he was working on a gold outing to Russia. He avowed that he gets lots of calls from people who want to know where to go to pan gold.

Pinie Conell asked for members to sign up for the Phoenix Mine outing to be held on the 25th in Idaho Springs. We will meet in the mine's parking lot at 11:00 a.m.

Gary talked about the need for volunteers for next year's officer and board slots and that Joe Shubert was coordinating the Nominating Committee. Gary also wanted members to know that they should wear their badges and/or carry their membership cards when prospecting Clear Creek.

Allen Mershon gave a presentation on Prospecting Colorado, with some additional hints about keeping warm in cold weather and frigid water (see lead article on page 1).

After the break, the drawings for door prizes and nuggets were held and the winner of the Find of the Month was announced by Rick Miska.

Gold Dust

There were several ways to steal a miner's gold dust. The weighers in the gambling halls and saloons lived off the tiny bits of gold dust they could make stick to fingers wet with beer and wiping the hands in leather pant pockets, or wearing long finger nails. One ingenious weigher groomed his hair by combing syrup into it. He'd run his hands through his hair after each weighing and washed out the gold dust frequently.

~Al Look

Gold Leaf

It is said that an ounce of gold can be beat out enough to cover an acre with gold leaf. A single grain of gold has been beaten out to a thickness of 1/368,000 of an inch.

~Harry Oliver

Drawing Winners

By Kathy Hawley, Drawings Coordinator

Nugget Drawings

0.5 gram nugget.....Frank Conte
 0.5 gram nugget.....Kindra Solomon
 0.6 gram nugget.....Jon Knight
 0.6 gram nugget.....LeRoy Lamgo
 0.6 gram nugget.....Wolf Stumpf
 0.7 gram nugget.....Don Greene
 0.8 gram nugget.....Joe Fortunato
 0.9 gram nugget.....Shirley Weilnau
 1.0 gram nugget.....Allen Mershon
 1.2 gram nugget.....Don Fling
 1.5 gram nugget.....Mike Weidmann
 2.1 gram nugget.....Bill Carr

Door Prize Drawings

0.5 gram nugget.....Mary Fortunato
 (Donated by **Randy Solomon**)
 0.3 gram nugget.....Don Baca
 (Donated by **Ken Oyler**)
 Pocket knife sharpenerWallie Robinson
 (Donated by **Chuck Cown**)
 Belt buckleJudy Hale
 (Donated by **LeRoy Lamgo**)
 Money clipRoy Lynch
 (Donated by **LeRoy Lamgo**)

Find of the Month/Year

By Rick Miska, Finds Coordinator

October's find of the month winner was Jerry Jensen. He brought in a couple of vials of gold that he got out of Clear Creek. Congratulations Jerry!

I'm Growing

I'm growing fonder of my staff;
 I'm growing dimmer in the eyes;
 I'm growing fainter in my laugh;
 I'm growing deeper in my sighs;
 I'm growing careless of my dress;
 I'm growing frugal of my gold;
 I'm growing wise;
 I'm growing-yes,-
 I'm growing old!



John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887), *I'm Growing Old*

The Q&A

By Nora Dorn, Q&A Coordinator

The **Question for October** was:

Q: "Where did the colorful and enduring expressions like 'stake a claim', 'see how it pans out', and 'strike it rich' originate?"

A: "All originated in the excitement and adventure of the California Gold Rush." *Colorado Gold: From the Pike's Peak Rush to the Present.* Stephen M. Voynick, Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1992, pp 42.

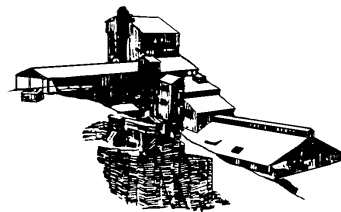
The **Questions for November** are:

Q 1: What year did the big flood go through the Argo?

Q 2: Which mine shaft was the main killer where the flood started?

Q 3: Near which Colorado town was the shaft located?

Members who submit answers to these questions at the next meeting will receive a red ticket for the nugget drawings for each correct answer.



Thanks for the Memories

By Nora Dorn, Q&A Coordinator

For personal reasons, I now pass on the cup of Questions and Answers.

My thanks to president **Gary Hawley** for the opportunity to stump Gold Prospectors of the Rockies members with the monthly Q&A.

I've learned a lot, especially as I had access to the answers . . . ha! Picking out the questions was the challenge.

You members of the GPR are a great bunch and the programs we've been having have been "top notch."

I'll come to club meetings when I can, and maybe win some gold nuggets, too!

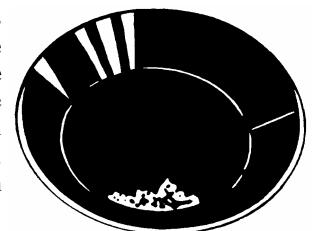
Keep on keepin' on . . .

Nora

Welcome New Members and Guests

By Dick Oakes, Membership Coordinator

We had several new GPR members sign up at the meeting: **Clarence Henke, Adam Lanham, and Wallie Robinson & Susan John.** The following guests were in attendance in October: former member **Don Baca, Roy Lynch, and Kevin Nelson** from Central City's Main Street Central.



Food for Thought

By Donna Mosteller, Refreshments Coordinator

Thank you **Ken Oyler** for bringing in the snacks that **Maria Stone** made for the meeting. We're sorry you couldn't make it to the meeting, Maria, but we still thank you for making the snacks. And thank you **LeRoy Lamgo** for the cake!

Our refreshment volunteers for November is a joint effort by **Carol Oakes** and **Rick Miska.** Don't forget that December is our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. I'll have the sign-up sheet on the front table this month as well as next year's sign-up sheet for the snack table. Your volunteering and donations keep it going. Thanks to all of you.

Thank you **Kathy Hawley** for all your help to get me started. I hope I can do the job as well as you did.

Donna



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The Gold Nugget

This copyrighted newsletter is the official publication of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies (GPR), PO Box 621988, Littleton, Colorado 80162-1988, a non-profit organization of professionally minded prospectors dedicated to gold prospecting.

Membership in the GPR is \$30 the first year and \$25 each subsequent year for an individual or family and includes a one-year subscription to *The Gold Nugget*, one name tag, and a membership card for each family member.

We meet at the Lloyd G. Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado, on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. sharp to educate members about gold prospecting and gold prospecting rules, review old and new products, coordinate outings, participate in drawings for door prizes and nuggets, socialize with like-minded friendly folks, and promote the pursuit of gold.

Deadline for all newsletter submissions is five days before the month of publication. Single issues are \$3.00 per copy (postpaid).

Dick Oakes, Editor, goldnugget@phantomranch.net.

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

SMALL HOUSE FOR SALE

This 2-bedroom house in Bonanza, Colorado, has a large kitchen, storage room, wood stove for cooking, and an electric heater. There is, however, no water available. Prospecting and hunting are allowed. \$18,000 (Negotiable/Trade). Contact Teena Swisher, (303) 428-5696, Ext. 237 (Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

TRAILER FOR SALE

Trailer made from a white half-ton Ford pickup bed (don't know year) with 15-inch tires and two-inch ball. \$125.00. Contact Rick Miska, (303) 404-2897, RichardM@imrgold.com

SUPER DETECTOR FOR SALE

Minelab SD-2100 metal detector with 8", 11", and 15" Coils. Contact Ken Oyler for all the details. (303) 696-7230, (303) 523-8046, goldfinder2@comcast.net



GPR GOLD PANNING DEMONSTRATIONS

Know an organization that might want us to set up a gold panning demonstration booth? Contact

Gary Hawley

(303) 933-1147 < ghawley1@juno.com

For additional information and photos, see
<http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>

GOLD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

Pages from the Librarian

By Dick Oakes, Library-History-Video Coordinator

Special thanks to my wife, **Carol Oakes**, for manning (or is that "personing") the Library Table in September!
 This month's featured book is

You Can Find Gold With a Metal Detector, By Charles Garrett and Roy Lagal

Charles Garrett founded Garret Electronics, a premier maker of a broad range of metal detectors. Roy Lagal is a treasure-hunting legend. Together, they have produced a book designed to explain clearly the steps necessary for finding gold with a metal detector.

The book, put out by Ram Publishing Company in Dallas, Texas, is written in simple, layman's language. The authors say that whether you have never used a metal detector or have years of successful experience with them, you will know more about hunting for gold after you read and study this book. This book is entirely about gold hunting. There are fourteen chapters and two appendices. Some chapter titles are, "Where to Look for Gold," "Finding Gold is Not so Difficult," "How to Detect Gold with a Detector," "Gold Nuggets--What Most Hobbyists Seek," "Old Mines--Searching With a Detector," and "Field Prospecting--Ways to Find Gold." There are many color photographs, most of the venerable Garrett and his brand-name equipment, but then what didja expect, eh?

There are three simple rules: Look in the right places, search correctly, and be patient and persistent. This book will help you do all three!

This book is #129 in the GPR library. As they say in library parlance, "Check it out!"

What a shame that so many of our books and videos were not returned and now, it appears, will never be recovered. I hope we can replace them some day. I'll put together a list of those titles we are missing for the November meeting. If you have one of the books on the list that you no longer need, please think about donating it to the club.



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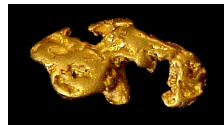
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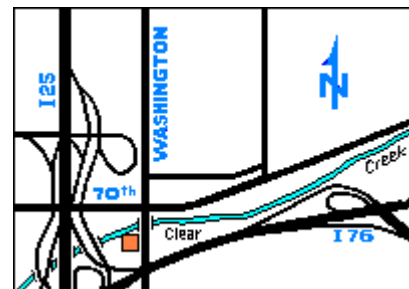
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A Song of the Gold Rush



Say what was your name in the States?
Was it Johnson or Thompson or Bates?
Did you murder your wife and flee for your life?
Say what was your name in the States?
Did you have to change your name?
Was it Miller or Benton or James?
Did you spend time in jail or ride on a rail?
Say what was your name in the States?

-Anonymous

GOLD NUGGETS FOR SALE



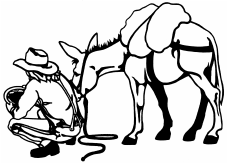
Beautiful, Rugged, &
Chunky Desert
Nuggets



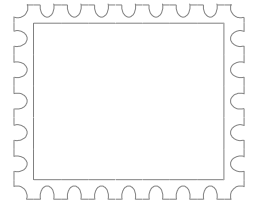
Contact Ken Oyler
(303) 523-8046
goldfinder2@comcast.net

Central City Colorado

http://www.centralcityco.org/index_past_events.htm
Rick Miska's photo featured on the 2003 - Community Calendar



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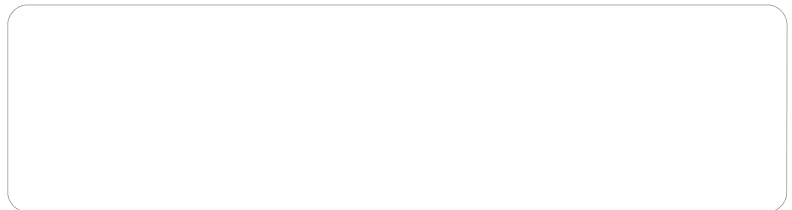


DATED MATERIAL

Please check the **date** on your label to see the last month you may renew your GPR membership and continue your subscription to *The Gold Nugget* without interruption. Thanks, and happy prospecting!

- Renew today** **Last newsletter**

FIRST CLASS



Nugget Hunting Techniques

By Ken Oyler, Metal Detecting Coordinator

Assuming your detector is working properly and that it is tuned to the manufacturer's recommendations, you will want to keep the following tips in mind:

- Always keep the coil as close to and parallel with the ground as possible. A fraction of an inch may mean the difference for your success or failure.
- Overlap your swings by about 1/3 of the coil length to insure you are covering the ground thoroughly. As you swing the coil, make a mental picture of the path, making sure no areas are missed.
- Go slow. Another saying is "The slow poke finds the gold." Repeat, go slow.
- Frequent check of your ground balance is very important because the ground mineralization often changes in the gold fields. You may see several different soil conditions within just a short distance. Study your detector manual with respect to the Sensitivity and Self Adjusting Threshold (S.A.T.) settings. In Highly mineralized soil, the Sensitivity may have to be reduced and the S.A.T. set to a higher setting. This will reduce your depth slightly but will allow you to adjust for a more distinct signal.

NOTE: When operating in S.A.T. mode, be sure to keep the coil moving or the signal may be tuned out and disappear.

Gold and Silver Caches

There is a Spanish cave near Westcliffe reputed to be full of Aztec gold that has been hunted for generations. Finally, it was thoroughly explored in 1943. It was empty, but the story lives on. It was never explained why the gold-hungry Spaniards carried the loot that far north, but because the cave was empty, it must have been a couple of other guys.

Another cache of gold is lost in Elk Creek, some 40 miles from Denver. A punk named Jack Reynolds, gasping for life after a robbery, penciled out a map of the "fortune." You are welcome to hunt for it if you can find Elk Creek. It's lost too.

On the stage between Silverton and Creede in the 1880s to avoid bandits, the drivers dumped a load of sacked silver into a creek. The road agents killed all the good guys, stole everything in sight, but missed the under-water cache. It's still there.

~Al Look