



The Gold Nugget

Vol. 9, No. 12

December 2004

The Goose Call

By Don Ditzler

Had a humorous incident happen the other day. My wife and I were metal detecting on a beach thick with geese (and thicker with their residual product). While detecting without headphones in relic mode, my White's DFX gave out with a loud electronic raspberry. Sounded like, well, have you ever heard the raucous call of a goose?

The whole flock left the water and came running towards us hissing and honking. I thought we were going to get mobbed. Turns out they seemed to be quite curious about the sound, maybe thinking it possibly to be the call of a new genetically altered breed of goose. After observing my movements for a few minutes and hearing more DFX bass toned honks, they turned tail and goose stepped away. I could tell by indignant honks and hisses the gaggle felt I had purposely fooled them. I don't suggest the DFX be advertised as a goose call, but it worked for me.

Does any GPR member have a highly valid reason for a man to purchase a second (or even a first) upscale metal detector? By valid I mean some non-debatable fact a husband can use to sell his wife on the idea that another underwater metal detector is a good investment. My argument has been that a new sofa won't make any money for us, other than a few coins sliding from pockets. I tell her a new rug is something we will just trample underfoot. Well, this simply doesn't seem to convince her. As one club member to another, what would be a valid argument to you?

Continued on page 2

The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, President

Once again we are entering that time of year when the weather becomes unpredictable and can change quickly. In the past we have discussed wind chill, hypothermia, icing roadways, and other life threatening conditions. There will be many days in December when you can get on a stream and do some serious prospecting IF you are prepared. Check a weather report before you venture out; make sure your vehicle is in top condition for the winter and carry a small survival kit with necessary tools and items to keep you safe in the event the weather "drops in," as we know it can do. PLEASE be careful and stay safe.



Our November meeting was well attended and busy. **Paul Nagy** was guest speaker and did an

Continued on page 2

VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Greetings to all!

I want to start out with a thank you to all for once again choosing me to be your Vice President. I'm looking forward to another year of helping to advance the club into 2005.



If any of you have questions, comments, concerns, or ideas about what you would like to see in the next 12 months as far as the club goes, please contact me, **Gary Hawley**, or any of the Board Members. **Paul Nagy** and **Jim Jarnutowski**--welcome to the board and thanks for stepping up to the plate; we need new blood and ideas in

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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) 933-1147

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

GPR Events Calendar

Month	Date(s)	Time(s)	Activity	Information	Honcho
Dec	15	7:00p	Meeting	Christmas Potluck Dinner Meeting	Gary Hawley
Jan	19	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation: "Production Mining"	Sam Rohmberger, Ph.D., CSM
Feb	16	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation: "Soil Sampling"	Graham Closs, Ph.D., CSM
Mar	16	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation:	
Apr	20	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation:	
May	18	7:00p	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 are 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. For events added after the meeting, check the GPR website.

PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE AT PANNING DEMOS ONE HOUR IN ADVANCE OF THE START TIME.

(Continued from PrezSez, page 1)

excellent job of sharing some of his mining experiences. **Joe Shubert** was in the spotlight with directing the Club elections.

Speaking of elections, after a well-run election program, the current members of the Board were re-elected to their previous positions. **Paul Nagy** agreed to fill one vacancy and I believe we still have one open spot for another Board Member.

There will be several open positions in the Committees department of the Club. **Donna Mosteller** is stepping down from the Refreshments Committee and **Dick Oakes** is releasing hold of several positions he has been working. The Club needs help from the membership to fill these and several other Committee positions. We have had a great year in 2004 because members care and want the Club to continue to gain and promote gold prospecting. If we don't have members to volunteer for these positions, the Club suffers. Call me as soon as you get this newsletter and volunteer to help your Club.

Well, **Kathy Hawley** made a big hit with the gold nugget selection she gave away at the meeting. I am sure it was the first time in the history of the Club that a total of ONE OUNCE of gold was given away at a single meeting. Thanks Kathy for making the election meeting so exciting. By the way, check Kathy's article for the size of the Membership Drawing nugget. Now aren't you glad you wore your GPR ID badge?

December 15 will be our Christmas potluck dinner party. Contact **Donna Mosteller** and tell her what you will be bringing for the dinner. The Board will meet briefly at 6:00 p.m. and the rest of the evening is reserved for members to eat and visit. Kathy and I have been busy picking out a few things for the party (remember last year's party?) and we will hope that all members will join us for a pleasant Christmas time evening. Be sure to wear your membership badge so you will be eligible for a gift.

On a personal note: Thanks to all of you for supporting me as your president. I am honored to be elected for a third term and will do my best to direct the Club in the most positive light possible. I am fortunate to have a very productive and supportive group of Board members and Committee persons and I know I can count on Club members to offer a hand when help is needed.

Be sure to attend the December 15 meeting to see who was selected to receive the first Annual Ken Barker Award.

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

(Continued from VP's Corner, page 1)

the club to help advance the club and already I'm hearing some great things to be brought to the table. I'm looking forward to working with you all.

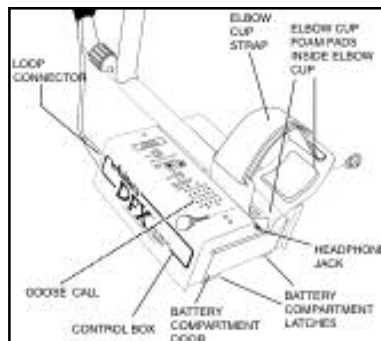
Over the next few months we will be needing to fill several different committees; please be active members in your club and rise to the challenge. Without all of you, this wouldn't be a club. In January I will be starting to get the panning demonstrations calendar set up. If anybody has any ideas for the next year, let me know. As many of you know, June and July are our busiest months.

The new road into Central City opened November 19th. The estimated time from I-70 to Central City is about 8 minutes. I heard on the news that two more applications for Casinos are being looked over by the Gaming Commission and one new casino is already opening. I'm very excited about this as we will pick up new venues for the panning demos.

Two years ago an advertising company spent a few hours with us on Central City's Main Street and took a lot of footage on us, so keep an eye on the TV this winter--you may see some of us in ads to be run for Central City.

Next month, **Allen Mershon** will be giving out some more pay dirt to those who have helped in the demos. Thank you Allen! You are most kind.

Now that I've spilled my coffee all over my computer desk (thankfully, I missed the keyboard), I'll be signing off. Thanks again and take care!



(Continued from Goose, pg. 1)

(Actually, between you and me, my wife never questions my purchases. When UPS brings that second hot detector, she probably won't say anything to me at all . . . for weeks.)

Hello to all GPR members out in Colorado!

~Don Dixler

Notes from Last Month's GPR Meetings

Board Meeting

by Gary Hawley, President

Roll Call

In Attendance: Gary Hawley, Jeff Mosteller, Kathy Hawley, Joe Johnston, Joe Shubert, Cindy Douthard, Hank Innerfeld, Allen Mershon, Terry Weatherly. *Unable to attend:* Sue Clover, Ken Oyler.

Quorum Present?

Yes.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 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

Newsletters from another clubs.

Committee Reports

Reports: Advertising, Bylaws, Drawings, Ken Barker Award, Membership, Monthly Q&A, Newsletter, Nominating, Outings, Panning Demos, Prospecting, Publicity, Refreshments, Standard Operating Procedures, Website.

No Report: Club Store, Dowsing, Find of the Month/Year, Library History & Video, Metal Detecting, Vendors.

Unfinished Business

Club Trommel. Allen Mershon. Ongoing. Several possibilities were discussed about disposal of the trommel. A final decision is planned for the January Board meeting.

C.A.N.P.O.. Hank Innerfeld. Ongoing. This will be a continuing effort for Hank. A lot of research has gone into this task and no decision can be made at this time.

Elections. Joe Shubert. Report on October nomination forms. Joe had hoped for more member involvement. Nominations were light but Joe is able to continue with what he received.

New Business

Outings. Jim Jarnutowski. Jim is our new Outings Committee Coordinator.

Ken Barker Award. Joe Shubert. Joe has ballots available for tonight's meeting.

Vendor Fees. Gary Hawley. Proposal for changes in the Standard Operating Procedures relating to "Vendors Committee" and the collection of "...vendors fee/percentage (of sales) to the club." Suggesting a charge to vendors on a per-meeting basis.

Building Rental. Gary Hawley. The Clements Center has increased the use fee by \$50 per year. We are still fortunate to have use of the facilities for our meetings.

Standing Rules. Dick Oakes. Board members have been advised of this proposal. Gary will contact each Board member for final discussion and determination of outcome.

Legal Committee. Dick Oakes. A proposal to have the club form a Legal Committee was discussed and tabled until January.

Newsletter Committee. Dick Oakes. The Editor asked that articles for January be submitted no later than December 18.

December Meeting. Gary Hawley. Christmas Party.

Planned Outings

Outings. Check the GPR Events Calendar in the newsletter.

Announcements

Next Board Meetings: December 15, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.

Next General Meeting: December 15, 2004, at 6:30 p.m.

Tonight's general meeting program: Paul Nagy to share his mining experiences.

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

General Meeting

By Paul Nagy, General Meeting Recorder

Meeting called to order by president Gary Hawley. Pledge of allegiance. Introduction of board of directors and new chairman of the Outings and Events Committee, Jim Jarnutowski. Review of recent metals prices. Intro of new member Will Cox and four guests present.

V.P. Jeff Mosteller reviewed the recent panning demos and thanked participants. He announced that the last demo of the season will be at the Elks Club in Boulder on Saturday from 9 to 6 and Sunday 9 to 4. Jeff announced that he is soliciting for new ideas for next year and as always to get new people involved.

Prez Hawley discussed the potluck for the December meeting.

Rick Miska asked the question of the month.

Hawley again discussed the need for new faces for participation in club functions. This is a good opportunity to sharpen one's social skills in a friendly atmosphere. The club needs you. It is not healthy for the club to have always the same people participating. If they should leave, the club tends to fall apart.

Recess and group photos of panning demo participants. Many were in period costume.

Introduction by Allen Mershon of the evening's speaker, Paul Nagy, mining geologist and mineral prospector. Talk titled "Mineral Economics and Prospecting, That Is, MONEY!"

Prize drawings and meeting adjourned.

Mineral Economics and Prospecting, That Is, MONEY!

By Paul Nagy

As a boy I was inspired by the gold prospector character in the Saturday matinee western movies. After military service and a job to get tuition money, I entered the State University of N.Y. and earned a degree in geology. I began my career in 1970 in British Columbia during the copper boom of that time. All my time was spent in wilderness areas working with experienced prospectors. I have been in many mines but always enjoyed "grass roots" prospecting the most. I also learned that mining profitability is not necessarily in high-value commodities, such as gold or diamonds, but in the more mundane products, such as base metals, uranium, and industrial minerals. A well-placed gravel pit or crushed rock quarry is a great profit center, just not very exciting or romantic.

I moved on to northern Quebec and Ontario as gold was released from government control and investor interest gathered. By the mid 1970s, the "energy crisis" made uranium much more attractive than gold and I went to northern Saskatchewan where there had been new discoveries in the old El Dorado District. Most people don't know this but the uranium rush of the 1950s was greater than every other

Drawing Winners

By Kathy Hawley, Drawings Coordinator

Nugget Drawings

3.8 gram nugget..... LeRoy Lamgo
 3.4 gram nugget..... LeRoy Lamgo
 3.1 gram nugget..... Joe Fortunato
 2.7 gram nugget..... LeRoy Lamgo
 2.4 gram nugget..... Larry Armstrong
 2.0 gram nugget..... Kathy Hawley
 1.8 gram nugget..... Dick Oakes
 1.7 gram nugget..... Will Cox
 1.7 gram nugget..... Marlin Wiedeman
 1.6 gram nugget..... Roger Jones
 1.6 gram nugget..... John Reeves
 1.5 gram nugget..... Joe Shubert

Membership Drawing

0.2 gram nugget..... Lisa Berta
 (Donated by **Randy Solomon**)

4.1 gram giant nugget..... Hank Innerfeld

Door Prize Drawings

Fanny Pack..... Roger Jones
 (Donated by **LeRoy Lamgo**)

Bits & Pieces Storage Containers..... LeRoy Lamgo
 (Donated by **Allen Mershon**)

DVD Player..... Paul Nagy
 (Donated by **LeRoy Lamgo**)

Welcome New Members & Guests

by Dick Oakes, Membership Coordinator

Welcome to new member **Will Cox** and guests **Vince Behunin, Dan Cheer, John Reeves, Lon Riggs, Marlin Wiedeman.**

December Birthdays

by Dick Oakes, Membership Coordinator

The following GPR members were born in this month. Be sure to wish them Happy Birthday!

Larry Armstrong, Larry Boyes, D.J. Janssen, Clarence Douthett, Fred Enisz, Donovan Greene, Crystal Dale, John Howell, Hank Innerfeld, John Masslich, Ron McLain, Rod Myers, Dick Oakes, Con Ogden, Steve Rice, Bev Rice, Bob Rover, Carl Sauerland, Joe Shubert, Peggy Stumpf, Alfred Vormittag,

Elections & Ken Barker Award

by Joe Shubert, Nominations Coordinator
2005 GPR Officers and Board Members

President Gary Hawley
 Vice-President..... Jeff Mosteller
 Treasurer Kathy Hawley
 2-Year Board Member Hank Innerfeld
 2-Year Board Member Joe Johnston
 2-Year Board Member Joe Shubert
 1-Year Board Member Sue Clover
 1-Year Board Member Cindy Douthard
 1-Year Board Member Jim Jarnutowski
 1-Year Board Member Paul Nagy
 1-Year Board Member Allen Mershon
 1-Year Board Member Terry Weatherly
 1-Year Board Member <open>

2004 Ken Barker Award

Recipient of the Ken Barkar Award to be announced in December.

The Q&A

By Rick Miska, Q&A Coordinator

The Question for last month was:

Q: What is the name of the biggest and last operating bucket-line dredge in Colorado?

A: The South Platte Dredging Company's Dredge No. 1, "The Fairplay Dredge," which ceased operation in 1951.

Source: *Colorado Gold*, Stephen M. Voynick, Page 112

From the Ledger

of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

Thanks to **LeRoy Lamgo** for the DVD player and fanny pack and to **Allen Mershon** for the storage containers for door prizes. Thanks to **Randy Solomon** for the gold nugget for an additional "Members Only" prize. Based on ticket sales, I believe the special nuggets were well received. Thanks to all who purchased tickets and congratulations to all the winners. **Hank Innerfeld** appeared especially pleased with his 4.1 gm. nugget. We will not have any drawings at the December meeting. This will be our annual Christmas potluck. We will have gifts for all members at the meeting, so be sure to wear your membership badge. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my helpers during the year, **Chuck Cown, Ed Finney, and Donna Mosteller**. I look forward to a second year as Secretary/Treasurer and thanks to all for your vote of confidence

Food for Thought

by Donna Mosteller, Refreshments Coordinator

Thanks to **Hank Innerfeld** for his always good banana bread; there's never any left. Thanks to **LeRoy Lamgo** for the big cake. He said it was an easy secret recipe from his grandmother. He told me I could pass it on to you. The secret is to find the nearest bakery. Don't forget the potluck at the December meeting. It turned out great last year and I'm sure it will again this year. My number is in the newsletter if you have any questions. See ya at the pot luck.



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 families dedicated to gold prospecting. Membership in the GPR is \$40 the first year and \$30 each subsequent year for an individual or family and includes a one-year subscription to *The Gold Nugget*, one name tag, and membership cards for all family members. Additional badges may be purchased. 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. Final deadline for all article submissions is five days before the month of publication. Single issues are \$3.00 per copy (postpaid).

Weapollao

How Colorado Got Its Name

Can you imagine living in the State of Weapollao? It nearly happened!

Between 1858 and 1861, several attempts were made to gain either territorial status or Statehood for what is now Colorado. Conventions were held, delegates elected, constitutions written and a provisional government was installed. These attempts were illegal in the eyes of government officials in Washington and Kansas City and they were mainly ignored.



Finally, in 1860, the U.S. Senate Committee on Territories drafted a bill to create a new territory that became the State of Colorado. The peoples' choice for a name for that territory was "Jefferson." However, Congress, at that time, would not approve naming a territory after a President, since there were not enough territories for all the Presidents. The following names were then suggested to the Committee: "Aampa," "Idaho," "Nemara," "Colorado," "San Juan," "Lula," "Arapahoe," and, you guessed it, "Weapollao." The committee chose "Idaho" and the name was inserted in the bill.

The House of Representatives was also working on similar legislation. Names they were considering for the new territory were: "Lafayette," "Columbus," "Franklin," "Idaho," "Colona," and "Tahosa," meaning dwellers on the mountain tops. "Tahosa" won.

Due to the conflicts between Northern and Southern States over slave vs. free state issues the simple bills to create a new territory became lost in the larger political wrangling. Congress adjourned in August 1860, without passing a bill to create the new territory.

On February 4, 1861, the Senate again considered the bill and Senator Wilson of Massachusetts, moved to amend the bill by striking out "Idaho" and inserting "Colorado." This amendment was agreed to and the bill passed. The next day Senator Nicholson of Tennessee moved to reconsider the vote. Senator Gwin of California supported Nicholson because Gwin wanted to change the name of the bill and give the name "Colorado" to "Arizona." He thought it "was the handsomest name that could be given to any territory or state." The motion to reconsider lost 31 to 10.

A bill, agreed to by both the House and Senate was sent to President Buchanan for signature into law. He signed the bill on February 28, 1861, thereby creating the Territory of Weapollao, uh, Colorado.

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This is an article published to members of the Gilpin County Historical Society (GCHS), P O Box 247, Central City, CO 80427-0247. The GCHS office is at 228 High Street, Central City. A limited edition (250 copies) paperback edition of the book Pennyweights: Bits and Pieces of Gilpin County History (60 articles, 116pp, b/w photos) is selling for \$12.95 plus \$4.00 S/H. Contact the Gilpin County Historical Society with your order at gchs@ecentral.com or (303) 582-5283. Members of the GCHS receive a 10% discount on all purchases from the museum gift shop, including the Pennyweights book, and FREE admission to the museums (which are only open in the summer- June, July, August). For a historical society membership application (individuals \$20.00, families \$35.00, with other price categories available), log on to <<http://www.coloradomuseums.org/gilpin.htm>> and click MEMBERSHIP.

Lebanon Mine Access Assured for 10 Years

Colorado Historical Society Finalizes Management Agreement



DENVER – Railstar Corporation of Cape Vincent, N.Y. has been awarded the management agreement to operate the Colorado Historical Society's Georgetown Loop Historic Mining and Railroad Park beginning in 2005. The Colorado Historical Society had been in negotiations with Railstar Corporation since August 2004. The final terms of the management agreement were reached and approved in accordance with Colorado procurement rules and procedures. Ron Trottier, vice president and general manager of Railstar Corporation, and the Colorado Historical Society signed a 10-year management agreement with a 10-year option to renew.

The Georgetown Loop Historic Mining and Railroad Park's 2004 season ended October 3 but reservations for 2005 are currently being accepted. The Colorado Historical Society has overseen the park since 1959. In 1975, it reconstructed and opened the narrow-gauge line that connects Georgetown, Colo. and Silver Plume, Colo. "The Colorado Historical Society is committed to preserving the visitor's historical experience at the Georgetown Loop Historic Mining and Railroad Park," said Georgianna Contiguglia, Colorado Historical Society president and CEO. "Railstar has extensive railroading and business expertise, as well as background in historic preservation, interpretation and education. Railstar is dedicated to serving the community, which will benefit both the visitor and the people of Georgetown, Silver Plume and Idaho Springs."

What this means to those of us in the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies and other folks interested in mining is that the Lebanon Mine will continue to have railroad access for its extremely informative tours!

For additional information about The Georgetown Loop and the Lebanon Mine, contact

*Rebecca Laurie, Public Relations Director
Colorado Historical Society
p 303.866.3670 -- f 303.866.4464
rebecca.laurie@chs.state.co.us*

Lamgo Wins Three Big Ones!

At the November meeting nugget drawing, **LeRoy Lamgo** won three nuggets totalling an amazing 9.9 grams!

Hank Innerfeld was another lucky winner.

CONGRATS!



Le Roy at left.

Hank at right.



MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

MINELAB DETECTOR FOR SALE

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

SPEEDAIRE COMPRESSOR FOR SALE

New Speedaire Compressor, 3PH-5HP, 80-gal tank, upright. Current model price is \$1,788; will sell now for \$950. Contact Rose Ann or Jon Knight, (303) 450-0580 or (303) 252-1759

THREE-WHEEL SCOOTER FOR SALE

Shuttle Personal Transport System, 3-wheel mobility scooter, good condition, \$950. Contact Rose Ann or Jon Knight, (303) 450-0580 or (303) 252-1759

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.)

KEENE DREDGE FOR SALE

Keene 5-inch triple-sluice dredge w/2 new hoses, 8HP Briggs & Stratton motor, 25-foot air hose w/respirator, upgraded to pump hot water into wet suit, made as a 2-wheel bed trailer w/racks, comes w/current license plates. Included are a wet suit that fits a 6-foot, 140-pound guy, boots, gloves, hat, and brand new face mask. \$1,500 firm. Alan Hamaker, (303) 582-3144

2 FAIRPLAY GOLD MINING CLAIMS FOR SALE

Each is 10 acres on Beaver Creek below Beaver Creek Park. Good access road, mineral rights only (on USFS land), "Golden Bridge" claim #251958. Asking \$1,500 for both. Alan Hamaker, (303) 582-3144

2 CENTRAL CITY GOLD MINING PROPERTIES FOR SALE

"Two Sisters" - 1.57 acres and "Clara Maria" - 1.65 acres, Central City. Property owned, therefore all land, mineral, and water rights included. Power poles 10 ft. away. Alan Hamaker, (303) 582-3144

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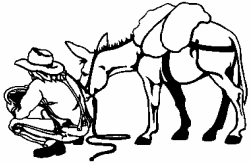
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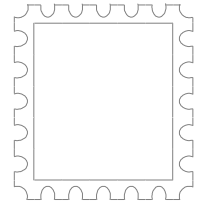
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Apparently, Clark, Gruber & Co. dies were engraved in the East by someone who had never seen the famous mountain [Pikes Peak]. Its depiction on the coins resembles a volcanic cone rather than the reality of one high mountain in a long chain. In 1862, Clark, Gruber & Co. closed its offices, selling its machinery to the Denver Assay Office in anticipation of the opening of a federal mint in that city (which did not occur until forty-four years later). The final curtain came down on private coinage with Congress' passage of the Act of June 8, 1864. Intended to stop the minting of Civil War tokens, this legislation prohibited the private manufacture of any coins designed to pass as money.



The Gold Nugget
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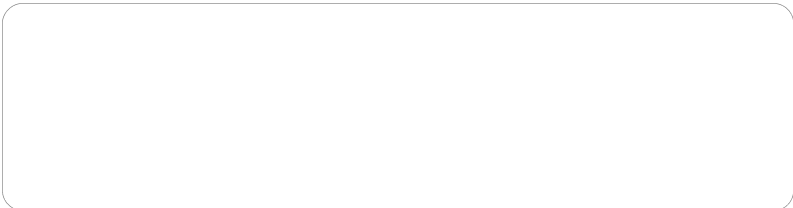
Demonstrators at November GPR Meeting

DATED MATERIAL

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(Continued from Mineral Economics and Prospecting, page 3)
 mineral rush in American history combined! I had Cree Indian helpers, some of whom had been to a government prospecting school. After I got tired of being cold most of the time, I moved to Colorado.

There were lots of good jobs in coal and oil shale, although I always managed to fit in some metals exploration, too. I did a lot of legal work in claim patenting in western Colorado. After the energy boom ended, I got full time into gold, the only metal left that had any investor appeal at all.

The current American gold industry is the result of an idea by government geologist Ralph Roberts who hypothesized a gold deposit in northern Nevada. Not in his wildest dreams did he think it would become the 100 million ounce "Au Carlin Trend." I had many fine years walking across the deserts and mountains, but I have not yet struck it rich, at least not for myself. It is often said that it is the journey that counts, not the destination. That will have to do me for now.

Studies by mining companies and government agencies have come to the following conclusions regarding mineral prospectors:

1. Modern technology notwithstanding, more than 60% of all mines have been found by prospectors, not large mining companies.
2. Most prospectors do not have college degrees. Mining engineers and geologists are not thereby presumed to be good prospectors.
3. Prospecting is more a matter of temperament than education or intelligence. Unflinching optimism and quiet perseverance are the most obvious traits. Prospectors tend to be oblivious to time.
4. There is believed to be such a thing as a "nose for ore," which some possess, but which has so far defied analysis.
5. Luck, both good and bad, are acknowledged realities.

Mineral prospectors have been great contributors to the national wealth, entrepreneurial spirit, settlement of the country, and American folklore and legend. Professional or amateur, full time or "weekend," it is a worthwhile and interesting pursuit.

The Newsletter Editor's 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

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