



# GOLD PROSPECTORS OF THE ROCKIES

## The Gold Nugget

Vol. 11, No. 1

January 2006

### Grow Me Some Gold Submitted by Paul Nagy

At a recent luncheon of the Denver Mining Club, Jan Krason, Denver-based global mining-exploration consultant, chatted with table mates about his recent visit to a gold-producing area in Latin America.

The gold, it seems, was entirely confined to the upper soil layer, known as the "A" horizon, or what laymen would call the topsoil. This is not at all where gold would be expected because it is almost entirely decomposing organic matter. Furthermore, the gold was in discrete crystals, not the rounded amorphous nuggets familiar to placer miners. That is compelling evidence that the crystals formed in place. Gold crystals have so far been found weighing as much as (gasp!) 4 kilos!

The area, as expected, has many people working methodically on hands and knees, carefully sifting the one or two-foot thick gold-bearing layer. Also, as expected, is the ever present gentleman with the large bankroll in hand to buy gold for cash on the spot. The report is that the diggers do very well indeed.

The obvious question, quickly put to Krason, was "What is the source of the gold?." With something of a shrug, Krason's reply was, "It must be *(continued on page 2)*"

### The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, President

We completed 2005 with beautiful weather that made it pleasant to be prospecting for **gold!** I hope you had a chance to finish the year with at least one 5-gallon bucketful of concentrates to work when the weather turns cold.

Our December Christmas party was a huge success. Thanks to all who attended. Kathy and I enjoy selecting and wrapping presents for the members who attend. (Actually, Kathy wraps the presents. I supervise, as in stay out of the way.) We feel this is an excellent way to give back to the members for their attendance, support and involvement with club activities throughout the year.



Congratulations to **Chuck Cown** who was chosen to receive the **Ken Barker Award**. Chuck

*Continued on page 2*

### VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Greetings to all and a happy new year. I would like to take a minute to talk about the winner of the 2005 Ken Barker Award. Mr Chuck Cown. I know a lot of folks that are dedicated to the hobby of Prospecting and Chuck is a cut above. Look at the things he does for the club. He volunteers himself for anything that needs to be done, he sits back at the table with Kathy and hands out the drawing tickets, takes care of any little thing they need at the table. He is up front with the drawings every month. He's everywhere, I don't recall anyone asking him to do what he does he just gets in there and does whatever needs to be done to make the meetings go smoother. As for the Demos, he is a godsend. Whenever we



*Continued on page 5*



**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 <> ghawley1@juno.com

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

### Definitions

This month, throughout the newsletter, you will find definitions of things from everyday life in the 19th century.

They were taken from a great book I picked up titled: "The Writers Guide to Everyday Life in the 1800's".

If you want to buy the book, search Amazon.com for the ISBN number 0-89879-541-9.

In this reviewers opinion, it's a great book.

### GPR Events Calendar

Month	Date(s)	Time(s)	Activity	Information	Coordinator
Jan	28	?	Panning Demo	Douglas County Library systems at Roxborough Park	Jeff Mosteller

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 "Grow Me Some Gold" page 1)*

plant activity." He theorizes that deep-rooted plants selectively pick up gold from decomposing bedrock, which is not itself economic, and carry it in chemical solution to the stem and leaves of the plants. After the plants die and decompose, the gold is liberated and is free to grow unobstructed into crystals as it seldom can in solid bedrock. Finally the topsoil acts as a packing medium, like styrofoam chips, to preserve the shape and delicateness of the crystals.

With modern analytical techniques, geobotany is a fast expanding field. For example, in Nevada pine cones are assayed for gold as a clue to ore location, and it has long been known that certain plants prefer to grow above copper-rich bedrock. But in this case the plants are not merely clues to location, but the actual mineralizing agent. Krason's area sounds like a place for someone's PhD thesis to me!

In practicality, keep in mind that gold is elusive and can sometimes be found in "the durndest places." And it doesn't always require expensive equipment and advanced education to find it!

*(Continued from Prez Sez, page 1)*

volunteers for numerous panning demonstrations and is patient and helpful with teaching the fine art of panning. He assists at the drawings table, helps with cleanup of the meeting room and volunteers to help whenever he can. Chuck is truly a positive asset to the GPR and demonstrates the passion for gold prospecting that qualified him to receive this award.

It was my pleasure to recognize Dick Oakes for his years of service as editor of *The Gold Nugget*. Dick developed a quality newsletter that reflects the positive and progressive attitude of the GPR.

Rick Miska will now assume the duties of editor of *The Gold Nugget*. Thanks for taking this challenging position, Rick.

Thanks to Vice-President Jeff Mosteller and his wife, Donna. They have nurtured the panning demonstration program into something that all club members can be proud of. Jeff's records indicate that over 3600 people visited the panning booth last year! That's 3600 people who were introduced to gold prospecting and panning. What an opportunity to demonstrate what prospecting was in the past and is today. This has become the top promotional program for the GPR.

Be sure to attend the January 18, 2006, meeting and meet the newest Board Members: **Mike Barker, Jim Intriglia and Donna Mosteller**. Another GPR Cache clue will be given. Kathy will have beautiful gold nuggets for the drawings. Jackie will have coffee and snacks available. And there will be good friends to meet and gold stories to share.

At this time of year, I reflect on all the wonderful people who support the GPR and me as President. There are so many of you who attend the meetings, volunteer for committees, become Board Members, work the panning booth, bring snacks, prepare reports and do so many other things for the club that it would be impossible to list everything and everyone in one newsletter. So, let me say... THANK YOU to all club members. You have made 2005 an enjoyable year and I look forward to being your President in 2006.

On a personal note: Kathy, I couldn't do this without you!

Until next time: Happy New Year! And, May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.

### Governmentium Submitted by Jeff Mosteller

A major research institution (MRI) has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest chemical element yet known to science. The new element has been tentatively named Governmentium. Governmentium has 1 neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons, and 224 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons. Since governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A minute amount of governmentium causes one reaction to take over four days to complete when it would normally take less than a second. Governmentium has a normal half-life of three years; it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause some morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes. This characteristic of moron-promotion leads some scientists to speculate that governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quan-

**Son-of-a-Bitch Stew:** A stew of calf brains, tongue, liver, heart, kidneys, and sweetbreads, mixed with various vegetables according to what was available. It was a favorite cowboy dish.

**Bimbo:** An alcoholic drink comprised of brandy and sugar flavored with lemon.

**Hoecake:** A cornmeal cake similar to corn pone and ash cake, formerly baked on a hoe over coals. A southern specialty.

**Bannock:** Cakes of Indian meal fried in lard, eaten throughout the 19th century.

**Cracklin' Bread:** Corn bread mixed with the residue of fried hog fat, another southern favorite.

## Notes from Last Month's GPR Meetings

### You Never Know

by Rick Miska

Those of you that have been around awhile know Allen Mershon. He is the the guy with the long hair, the booming voice, a spring in his step, and a heart of gold.

Do you remember his first aid demo's in past meetings? Do you remember how he said to deal with emergency situations in a calm, cool, and controlled manner? Did you hope you would never have to use what you learned from him?

I always hoped I would never have to use his lessons, or see them used, but, right after the December meeting, I got to see him in action. A bunch of us were all standing around outside the rec center, when we heard a horrible crash sound. I turned around towards Colfax just in time to see the back end of a Blazer fall about 3 feet back to the ground.

Apparently, a young gentleman pulled out in front of another car, and got hit, and was spun around into a pole. Alan and I started walking at a quick pace towards the accident. Then we ran.

A pregnant young woman was in the passenger seat, appearing injured. Alan immediately tended to her, making sure she was safe, not moving, and ok to stay where she was. The way he handled her, the environment around her, and the other people around her until emergency people arrived was an enlightening experience. All I did was direct some traffic and help the father by holding their kid until family arrived.

The first aid and emergency management stuff we learn from Allen don't just apply to us in the hills, they apply to us at all times. Keep them in mind.

I don't know how things turned out with the lady, but I am sure she and her baby were fine. Please be careful driving home after the meetings each month, we want to see you at the next meeting.

### It's Membership Renewal Time!

January is the time for most of us to renew our membership! Let's do it asap so **Cindy Douthard** can get everything all lined up!

Remember, you continue to receive *The Gold Nugget* on a regular basis, get to attend the club outings that are planned during the year, participate in club meetings, attend the club workshops, use the club library, get notified of special activities in gold prospecting and metal detecting being offered by other clubs in the area, receive other club members' knowledge and experience in the hobby, have fellowship with people who share a love for and an interest in prospecting and metal detecting, have the opportunity to participate in the club as a forum, and receive a membership card for each member of the family.

Members are in good standing when their fees are paid for the current year. Members are required to abide by the Code of Ethics, Bylaws, and Standing Rules of the club.

### General Meeting

By Paul Nagy, General Meeting Recorder

21 Dec 2005

7:09 President Gary Hawley calls the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Also Happy Holidays! (to cover all bases). Gary announces that from his view at the shopping center, the economy looks good. Announcement of metal prices. Thanks to Kathy Hawley who wrapped all the presents. Feel free to swap your Xmas gift with someone else if you want. Prez Hawley makes the annual pronouncement: "Let's eat!"

Many tables groaning with delicacies such as Cindy Douthard's elk stew like mother used to make, baked ham, fried chicken, roast beef au sauce, yummy meatballs, casseroles, salads, and side dishes to treat royalty. And a dessert table with eye-popping and mouth-watering pastries and sweets that had to be seen to be believed.

8:15 Gift drawings. Something for every member present.

8:40 Prez Hawley thanks all members for their interest and participation in the club and invites more participation in all club activities. Great museum tours for example.

8:45 Club Veep Jeff Mosteller announces that the 12 panning demonstrations this year brought in at least 3600 visitors. He presented a check for \$1,021 to the club. Thanks to all those who participated. Leroy Lamgo was the most frequent attendee.

8:50 Prez Hawley honors outgoing newsletter editor Dick Oakes for his years of exemplary service. Dick was presented with a framed prospector photo and a certificate of appreciation. He passes the blue pencil to Rick Miska.

Jeff and Donna Mosteller, for their stellar service running the panning demos, received a gift certificate for a meal at the Manor House Restaurant.

8:55 Joe Johnston presents the "find of the year" awards. Thanks to Joe for his efforts in this.

8:57 Jackie Barker presents the annual Ken Barker Award for service to the club. There were ten nominees this year. Kathy Hawley was the First Runner-Up. The winner was...Chuck Cown! He was presented with all the gifts which go with the award including the gift certificate donated by Cherry Creek Shopping Center. Loud and long applause for Chuck, who proves that you can achieve many things while still remaining quiet and unobtrusive.

8:59 Adjourn meeting.

**Gold Dollar:** A very small gold coin that came widely into use in the 1850's. From 1849-1854 it featured a Liberty Head with a headband on its obverse and a wreath on the reverse, surrounded by a wreath. From 1854-1856 it featured an Indian head wearing a feather headdress on its obverse and the numeral 1 on its reverse, surrounded by a wreath. From 1856-1889 it again featured the Indian head, but with a slightly larger design. The reverse was the same.

**From the U.S. Mint** Submitted by Joe Johnston

'Coin'undrums: Did You Know?

**Question:** Does the public pay for the mintage of coins?

**Answer:** No. Why? The answer is "seigniorage" (SANE-yo-rij)-the difference between the cost of making a coin and its face value. For example, it costs only a few cents to make a quarter, yet its face value is 25 cents. The difference-or profit-is seigniorage. This allows the United States Mint to operate and puts extra funds into the nation's treasury-funds that are spent on education, health care, defense, and other services for the nation. Visit them at <http://www.usmint.gov>

Hey buddy, got a nickel?  
The Teachers area of the United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change™ Web site now holds a [complete set of lesson plans](#) that relate to each of the Westward Journey designs, including the final design, to be released early in 2006!

Also check out their "coin of the month" the West Virginia quarter where they ask "How come there's a West Virginia but no East Virginia?" <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/index.cfm?fileContents=coinNews/coin/2005/12.cfm>



By Rick Miska, Q&A Coordinator

**January 2006**

- Edwin James of the Long Expedition discovered me near Palmer Lake in 1820.
- I have 5 distinctive spurs.
- You typically find me between May and August.
- I won an election in 1891 by 15000 votes.
- Sheep love me.
- You can find me between 6000 and 12000 feet elevation.
- The higher you get, the more I look like the sky.
- The state song was written about me.

**What am I?**

Want a free ticket at the club drawing? Submit a Q&A article to the newsletter. If I use it, you get a ticket.

**Homestead:** Land claimed by a squatter or settler. The Homestead Act of 1862 guaranteed ownership of a 160-acre tract of land to any head of household after he had improved the land and lived on it for five years.

**Forty-niner:** Anyone who took part in the California Gold rush of 1849.

**Bedroll:** In its simplest form, a couple of blankets rolled out near a fire, where one would "roast on one side and freeze on the other." The better equipped cowboy also used a canvas tarp to protect him from the elements.

**Corn Freight:** Any freight carried by mule teams. This name was adopted because large quantities of corn had to be carried to feed the mules.

**Find of the Year**

By Joe Johnston, Find of the Month/Year Coordinator

**Largest Raw Gold**

Leroy Lamgo..... Gold Nugget (0.30 g)

**Most Raw Gold**

No Entries .....

**Best Jewelry**

Joe Johnston ..... 1940's-50's Broach Pin, Airplane shaped

**Oldest Coin**

LeRoy Lamgo ..... 1853 3-cent Piece

**Most Valuable Coin**

Joe Johnston ..... 1945-D Silver Quarter

**Most Unique (Excavated)**

Sue Lemieur ..... Garnet Rock from 4-corners Vermont

**Most Unique (Non-Excavated)**

No Entries .....

**Best Bottle**

Robert Deschambart ..... Signet Medicine Bottle

**2006 Newsletter Article Submission Deadlines**

Please submit your newsletter articles to Rick Miska at :

**Goldhunter@Ricksthings.com**

- January 4th
- February 6th
- March 3rd
- April 7th
- May 5th
- June 9th
- July 7th
- August 4th
- September 8th
- October 6th
- November 3rd
- December 8th

Exceptions to these dates can only be made by Gary Hawley and/or Rick Miska.



**From the Ledger**

of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The December meeting was very enjoyable. I always like being able to visit with members and I always eat more than I should. Congratulations to Chuck Cown, our 2005 Ken Barker recipient. Thanks Chuck for all your help.

We will continue to sell tickets for the "Special Drawing Nuggets" at the January and February meetings. We have a 12.7 gram California nugget, an 11.5 gram nugget from Australia and a 12.3 gram nugget from Siberia. They are all beauties. I think we will probably give those nuggets away at the February meeting.

At the January meeting we will give away **15.1 grams of gold** with 3 nuggets being **1.0 grams** or larger. The largest nugget will be **5.2 grams**.

So like I always say, come prepared to buy some extra tickets and Good Luck!!

**Food for Thought**

Many thanks to everybody who brought all the great food to the December Potluck. I am willing to bet that all of us added a few extra holes to our belts.

**2006 GPR Officers and Board Members**

- President..... Gary Hawley
- Vice-President..... Jeff Mosteller
- Treasurer ..... Kathy Hawley
- 2-Year Board Member..... Hank Innerfled (elected 2005)
- 2-Year Board Member..... Joe Johnston (elected 2005)
- 2-Year Board Member..... Joe Shubert (elected 2006)
- 1-Year Board Member..... Mike Barker
- 1-Year Board Member..... Cindy Douthard
- 1-Year Board Member..... Jim Intriglia
- 1-Year Board Member..... Allen Mershon
- 1-Year Board Member..... Donna Mosteller
- 1-Year Board Member..... Paul Nagy
- 1-Year Board Member..... Terry Weatherly

**2005 Ken Barker Award**

Thank you to all who participated this year by nominating someone to receive the Ken Barker Award. The winner was:

**Chuck Cown!!!!!!!**



**GPR GOLD PANNING DEMONSTRATIONS**

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

**Jeff Mosteller**

(303) 202-9302 <> [jefndona@comcast.net](mailto:jefndona@comcast.net)

For additional information and photos, see

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

*(Continued from VP's Corner, page 1)*

needed any little thing custom built for the demo set up he's Johnny on the spot, he's built flag holders for the canopies, a large metal box that depicts what a ton of Gold would look like, he color coded the old canopy for easier set ups and many more things. On the demos he attends he's always there ahead of us wondering where the trailer is, he's already reconed the area we need to set up in and has all the little details handled. He works nonstop in the panning tubs and teaches hundreds of people how to pan every year. Mr. Cown is a fine example of what I would call a dedicated individual and I applaud him on the award.

On January 28 we are going to do a special demo for Douglas County Library systems at Roxborough Park in their new Library we could use a few people for that show, I will have all the details at the meeting.

**Monthy Articles**

The best things in life are built by teams, not individuals. With that in mind, I would like more member participation in writing this newsletter.

I am looking for volunteers to write the following monthly Columns for the newsletter:

Gold Prospecting Equipment - Whats new in prospecting hardware. What are prospectors fabricating themselves.

Current Gold and Precious Mining News - Whats happening in the news related to our hobby.

GPOR Bio of the Month - Short bio of one of our members each month.

Safety Tip of the Month - Something about first aid. Ideas to make our hobby safer. Common sense ways to pursue our hobby. Things like that.

Please contact me asap if you are interested in taking on one of these columns for the year. [Goldhunter@ricksthings.com](mailto:Goldhunter@ricksthings.com)

**MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS**

**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

**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

**MAX II 6-WHEEL-DRIVE ATV FOR SALE**

1991 Recreatives Industries, Inc. Max II 2-Passenger 6-Wheel-Drive Amphibious ATV with extras, incl. snow tracks, top roll bar, convertible cover, winch. Electric start, steel chassis, polyethylene body, more. Rated 25 mph land, 4 mph water. For a look-see, go to www.maxatvs.com. Asking \$4,000.00. John Howell, (303) 429-0630

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in *The Gold Nugget*

**Commercial Ads**

3.6" x 2.0" - Two Column Inches (Business Card Size) .....	\$ 6
3.6" x 4.3" - "Four" Column Inches .....	\$ 12
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3.6" x 9.3" - "Nine" Column Inches (Vertical) .....	\$ 24
7.5" x 9.3" - "Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page).....	\$ 48

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to the Editor.**

**For further info, see the GPR website**

**WANTED: 3- OR 4-WHEEL ATV**

Three- or four-wheeler ATV wanted (cheap). "Needs work" is fine with me. Call me at (303) 404 2897 or e-mail me at goldhunter@ricksthings.com

**GOT STUFF? WANT STUFF? PUT YOUR AD HERE!**

Members of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies are welcome to submit their personal classified ads about items wanted or for sale. Please give this section a bit of your time and consideration. It is quite possible that you can see that you have a limitless space to give your entire constabulary and only then can you give of yourself. Dig?

**For Sale - Goldmaster 3 Detector \$275**

Goldmaster 3 gold detector with standard coil, new battery holder. Works great. Call me at (303) 404 2897 or e-mail me at goldhunter@ricksthings.com

**What have you been doing?**

Where did you prospect last summer?  
 What did you find?  
 What kind of equipment do you use?  
 How did you research your location?  
 Did you file any claims?  
 What would you have done differently?  
 Did you take any pictures?  
 Answer all of these questions with an article about your prospecting related experiences from recent times. Please send it to :  
**Goldhunter@ricksthings.com**



Send in your comments, letters, articles, concerns, and suggestions for publication in this newsletter. Please try to keep the subject in line with things related to what our club is about. Articles should be submitted to Rick Miska at the meeting or goldhunter@ricksthings.com

**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).

## GOLD-N-DETECTORS

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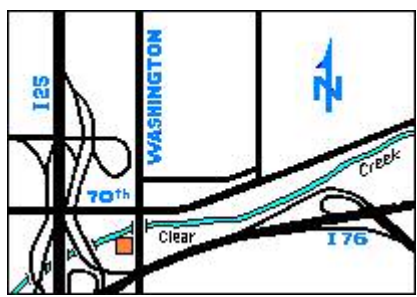
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### Dutch Oven Beef Stew

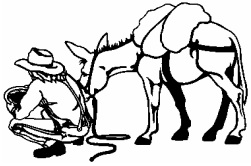
INGREDIENTS:

1-2 pounds stew meat

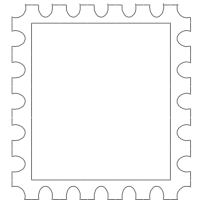
- 6 potatoes, cut into chunks
- 1 cup baby carrots
- 1 cup celery in 1 inch pieces
- 1 onion
- 1 package McCormicks beef stew mix
- 1 package McCormicks beef and herb gravy mix
- salt and pepper, to taste
- Water

Use a 6-quart Dutch oven over ready hot coals. Put the beef in enough water to cover the meat, and put the lid on the Dutch oven and cook until the beef is tender. Add potatoes, carrots, celery, and onion, and cook until potatoes and carrots are tender. Last put in the gravy mixes and stir until mixed well. You may want to add more water if desired. Simmer for about ten minutes. Take Dutch oven off of coals and serve.

Servings: 6-8  
Preparation time: 40 minutes



**The Gold Nugget**  
**GOLD PROSPECTORS OF THE ROCKIES**  
PO Box 621988  
Littleton, CO 80162-1988



### **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**

