

THE GOLD NUGGET

April 2013

2013 Membership Dues Are Due Now!!! You will be dropped in May

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



What is it about gold that drives people to do crazy things? Two years ago, when the prices of gold went sky high and was knocking the door on 2000 an ounce, we received a call from some folks in New Jersey. They told us they were going to quit their jobs, sell their home and were going to be moving to Colorado to find their fortune in gold and wanted to know where they should start digging. We told them that if we really knew where to find that much gold, we probably wouldn't tell them. We recommended they keep their jobs and buy gold on the Markets. True story!

Skyrocketing prices on rare earth metals in the last couple of years has driven large numbers of people to join local clubs all across the country and to start small scale prospecting. After getting involved for just a little while, they have mostly come to realize what most of us already know. You basically wind up spending about 100.00 to make about 20.00, if you are lucky, and you can ask any experienced prospector and he will tell you that that is the truth. The old timers back in the day skimmed most of the large stuff off the surface very quickly a long time ago. Oh, you can still find nuggets today, but as a general rule, not here in Colorado. Here, they are few and far in between. Here, we primarily find placer gold today which consists of smaller flakes and flour like micro gold. There is still 90% of the world's gold out there to be found but most of that gold is underground and to get to it, you had better have a lot of money to invest in heavy equipment and such for hard rock, or lode mining, providing of course, that you are able to obtain all the necessary permits, have an approved plan of operation, post all the necessary bonds and pay all the fees and permits, get the clearance of numerous organizations such as the EPA and others, have a plan of reclamation, and so on. 99% of us are not able to do that. That leaves panning, sluicing, highbanking, and dredging for placer gold. It makes us small scale miners/prospectors.

Placer mining is much less expensive to obtain the equipment needed. However, today there is a lot of pressure being put on those of us who operate motorized equipment. Highbanking and dredging are becoming more and more regulated across the country and is frowned on by those who see it as a threat to the environment. That is simply because too many people are uninformed and don't understand how the equipment is used and how it works. When done responsibly, dredging has been proven to actually be quite helpful to a stream in many different ways. Highbanking is much the same. Placer gold is generally replenished each spring during the annual snow melt and water runoff each spring. There are veins of gold in the bottoms of many streams that have never been discovered and the natural water erosion process frees up that gold in small pieces and carries it downstream to replenish all that we took out the year before. Highbanking and dredging simply allows a small scale miner to move a lot more material than panning and sluicing during an average day of working. Therefore, these methods certainly increase the chances of recovering a little more gold than a panner or sluicer would get.

Most of us realize that our pursuit of gold today is simply going to fall into the realm of being a recreational hobby. It is best suited for retired folks who want to stay healthy and get good exercise or for those younger folks who just want to do much the same but on a weekend basis. None of us are ever going to really get rich at it. And if you have the money to travel a little bit, you can still go to the Mother lode out in California or up to Alaska, or even Australia, and still find opportunities today to find some significant gold, to include some fairly large nuggets. But it isn't easy. If it was easy, we would have all quit our day jobs years ago and be doing it full time. But it is fun..! Even as long as I have been doing this, I still get a thrill and my heart beats just a little faster when I swirl that pan and see that wonderful gleam of beautiful yellow gold that has laid in the ground or water for millions of years and never been seen or touched by the eyes or hand of Man, until I saw and touched it first!

Well, that is about all I have from here for now. So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that 'Yaller Gold'!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!



The V.P. Corner by “Klondike” Mike

Colorado History Part #13

Well folks, here we go again. Sorry for the short column last month, computer problems!!

As we move ahead to 1859, calamity and chaos surround the future of these settlements. The boosters of the two villages jealously hoard their meager civic pride while privation and hardship beset them. It is inevitable that trouble will reach across the narrow boundaries of the creek. Conceived in claim jumping and high handed, if not downright strong armed tactics, the birth and growing pains of the two towns are bound to shatter friendships and spill blood.

The first of these affairs involved two longtime friends, former Missouri riverboat pilots, Peleg T. Bassett and John Scudder. The mellow comradeship of the two river men had suffered its first strain shortly after their arrival in the region when Scudder, located in Auraria while Bassett staked his fortune with the Denver City Town Company.

In January of 1859, Scudder wrote to a friend back in the States. 'We think we have a good thing and expect to get rich out of it. We have linked our fortunes with the Georgia Company, who first opened the mines in this country in the spring of 58' and have laid out a city named (Auraria). Every man is hard at work building cabins. We have a claim club whose business it is to see that all town sites and farming and timber claims are recorded. So far, we have done well and hope the county officers that will be elected in March will take up the business as we leave it. If so, there will be no trouble, if not, the bloody scenes and riots of Eastern Kansas will again be re-enacted and many good men will fall in defense of their actual rights!'

Well, fellow prospectors, the history of Colorado is getting into the wild days of Denver and the surrounding area. As before, you can contact me any time at 720-443-9545.

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger By Linda Luchtenburg

For the month of April, we will be giving away a total of 7.2 grams of gold with the largest being 2.3grams. Keep in mind that we are still selling 'blue' tickets for the members only 'Special Large Alaskan Nugget Drawing', so be sure and bring a little extra money as the more we sell, the sooner we can give it away. We would like to give a special 'Thank You' to Jim Long, Mike Hurtado and Bill Duncanson for donating items to the March general drawings.

The Club Now Accepting Credit Cards

The Board of Directors have approved accepting credit cards from members for certain purchases. Starting in March, 2013, the Club will accept credit cards for the payment of dues, member badges, and any products from the Club Store. The Club will not accept credit cards for the purchase of any drawing tickets as those must be made in cash only. A service fee of \$0.50 will be attached to each \$15.00 of payment made. Cards accepted will be Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

GPR April Meeting Program:

The April meeting will feature a presentation by **Clancy Harmon, the President of the Mine Rescue Team** from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. Clancy is also the SME Student Chapter President and is studying to become a mining engineer. The Club has toured the Edgar Mine in Idaho Springs previously, which is owned and operated by the Colorado School of mines and is where the School of Mines Mine Rescue Team trains. I am certain that this will be a fascinating presentation and program. We hope to see you all there!



Board Meeting Minutes From Mar 2013

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato		Don Luchtenburg
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston	X	Terry Weatherly	X	Janine Ballentine
X	Peg Brozek	X	Roger Biri	X	Andy Doll	X	Linda Luchtenburg

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By JJ at 6:00 am

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes Corrections: None

Approved as read/corrected: Yes

Treasurer's Report: Questions: None . Approved: yes

Correspondence: 4 phone calls, 6 e-mails, 9 mailings

Committee Reports:

- Mike H. reports we have 10 new member prospector kits completed for sale in the Store. He is still working on metal detecting pins. We have new product line price quotes in. Discussed and approved for placing an order.
- Janine B. has scheduled a tour for 6-1 at Leadville. We will hold off on Mint tour until winter hours.
- Pres Long handed out Manual updates for 2013.

Webmaster: Total Hits 128445 Hits for last month 660.

Unfinished business: None.

New business:

- Discussed re-implementing 'Find of the Month' Committee. Joe J. will head it.
- Passed out policy sheet for each members review to report back on with any changes.

Planned Outings for 2011: As of this date, we now have a number of Outings scheduled and confirmed and more being planned. Refer to Outings Calendar in Newsletter for dates

From the Board:

- Pres Long reported that he had committed the Club to a partnership with the Denver Chapter GPAA and the Foothills Chapter GPAA to adopt portions of Lower Clear Creek in Adams County. We (GPR) will have the section of Creek between Washington St. and Broadway. We will collect and remove trash to improve the area as well as work with Ad Co Parks/Rec Director Mark Pedrucci to establish prospecting rules and guidelines for everyone using the resource. There remains a ban on all motorized equip., however battery operated equipment is ok. First Outing there will be April 27.
- Joe Johnston reported that GPR has been invited to attend the Foothills GPAA Chapter 3 day outing on June 7,8,9 at Lake Creek S of Leadville, 5.00 per person per day.
- Joe Fortunato reported a 5.5 ounce nugget was found last month in the Mother lode near where Joe had metal detected this last June.
- Janine B. cleared up some details on her scheduled tours and in being able to obtain soda pop from her employer at reduced prices for future outings.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting Apr. 17, 2013 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Apr. 17, 2013 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: Preethi Burkholder on Ghost Towns of Colorado.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:50pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
An ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire how long?

2013 GPR Board of Directors Members
President
James Long
Vice President
Mike Hurtado
Secretary/Treasurer
Linda Luchtenburg
2 Year Board Members
Joe Johnston (2010)
Joe Shubert (2011)
1 Year Board Members
Joe Fortunato
Terry Weatherly
Andy Doll
Don Luchtenburg
Roger Biri
Janine Ballentine

General Meeting Minutes From Mar 2013

1. Meeting was opened at 7:05pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1606.80 an ounce, silver at \$28.83, platinum at \$1576.00 and palladium at \$759.00.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

3. Web hits for last month reflected 660 hits for the last 30 days.
4. **Pres. Long** announced that tonight's program will be a power point presentation by Noted Author/speaker Preethi Burkholder who will speak on Colorado's Ghost Towns. Preethi brought a number of her new book with her and she autographed them for members. The program was excellent and Preethi said that she would be happy to come back again at a future date to speak some more.
5. **Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg** reported that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, we are still selling tickets for the new 'Members Only' drawing for a large 14 gram nugget. She thanked everyone for catching up on their annual dues.
6. **Pam and George Schmitt** reported from the Membership Table that approx. 110 members were in attendance. There were 10 guests and 10 new members in attendance as well. The meeting attendance was 130.
7. **Sue Clover** read the 'Question of the Month', which was 'Where did the gold for the wedding rings worn by Queen Elizabeth, Princess Diana and Kate Middleton originate from'?
8. **Pres. Long** advised that the Club restarted the 'Find of the Month' program again. Several members brought items for display on a table in the back. So bring those finds in and winners will be announced in the Newsletter each month. Monthly winners will be in competition for Find of the Year.
9. **John Johnson** presented the 2013 Cache Clue #3 to the membership in attendance.
10. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that we were in the process of planning the 2013 outings and confirmed a number of dates that were under review or confirmed. Refer to the Outings Schedule in the Newsletter.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that the GPR had entered into a partnership with the Denver Chapter of the GPAA and the Foothills Chapter of the GPAA to adopt portions of lower Clear Creek for improvements. The three Clubs along with the Clear Creek Prospecting Store have joined with Adams County Parks and Recreation to improve the stream through trash cleanups and other potential future projects to prevent this section of the Creek from suffering the overuse that has occurred at the Youngfield stretch of Creek. The Club will adopt the section of Clear Creek from Washington to Broadway streets. On April 27, we will conduct a trash cleanup from 9a till 12 noon, break for lunch which will be provided by the Clubs behind Tymkovich's Meats, then prospect for the rest of the day. **Adams County has a ban on all motorized equipment.** Battery operated is ok. There will also be a Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class at Tymkovich's on May 11 at 9a. The Club handed out Membership Cards for 2012 to paid members tonight as well as the Info Cards for the members that tell them what to do when contacted by persons who claim to be in authority or who challenge you while prospecting. The Club introduced a 'Beginner's Prospecting Package' for sale in the Club Store. We will soon be introducing some new t-shirts and caps in the Store as well. **REMEMBER, the Club has imposed a 'self-imposed ban' on the use of motorized equipment on the Youngfield stretch of Clear Creek since June 2012.** This is in the best interest of the property as well as the Club and all of our members. Thank you.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:05pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:30pm.
13. **Sue Clover** announced that there were 52 winners of the 'Question of the Month' and that the answer was 'The St. David's Mine in Wales'. The winners all received a free red ticket for the coming gold drawings.
14. The evening was concluded with drawings for door prizes followed by drawings numerous door prizes and for the gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they can choose to donate the tickets back to the Club. Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were **Brandon and Linda Luchtenburg.**
15. **Pres. Long** thanked **Kris Kafka** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. With the number of attendees skyrocketing recently, this really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
16. **Pres. Long** announced that the April Program will feature Clancy Harmon, a mining engineer student from the Colorado School of Mines who will speak on Mine Safety and Rescue. Clancy is also the President of the SME Student Chapter and the President of the SCM Mine Rescue Team.
17. We hope to see all of you there!
18. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.



TOUR

Western Mining Museum Outing on Mar 23 was Cancelled

We were sad to see the Tour scheduled on May 23 was cancelled but the weather was so bad that we didn't want to see anyone wreck a car or risk injury driving down to the Springs that day. We will look at potentially rescheduling and if that doesn't work out, everyone will be refunded their money. That is the risk of early spring outings in that Mother Nature often chooses to test our resolve.

Schedule of 2013 Planned Outings:

- 3- 9 Sat Panning Demo at Rocky Mtn. Horse Expo, Denver, 2-4p
 - 3- 23 Sat Tour Western Mining Museum, \$2 @ person 11a to 3p, Colo Springs, bring your own lunch
 - 4- 27 Sat Trash cleanup/lunch/prospecting Outing on lower Clear Creek. Meet behind Tymkovich's 6811 Washington 9am -dark
 - 5- 11 Sat Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class at Tymkovich , 9am see sign up
 - 5-16 Thur Panning Demo, Aurora Water Festival, 9a-3p
 - 5- 18 Sat Prospecting Outing, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9am
 - 6- 1 Sat Tour of Leadville Mining Museum and Matchless Mine, 10am, !5.00/person
 - 6- 22 Sat Prospecting Outing in Nederland at 9a. Glass cleanup contest
 - 7- 26, 27, 28 Prospecting Outing on Lake Creek, Leadville w/Illinois Gold Seekers, \$5/day/person, bbq Sat night
 - 8- 1 Sat Panning Demo for Japanese Exchange Students, Idaho Springs, 1p-4p
 - 8- 17 Sat Club Picnic at Lions Park in Golden 11a-2p, East Pavilion
 - 8- 24 Sat Prospecting Outing Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9a
 - 9- 5, 6, 7 Highlands Ranch Festival Panning Dem, will be a sign up sheet
 - 9- 21 Sat Idaho Springs Festival Panning Demo, will be a sign up sheet
 - 9- 28 Sat Trash Cleanup/prospecting Outing, Lower Clear Creek, 9am at 6811 Washington
- Additional dates/outings are also under consideration.

UNSCHEDULED FREE BEGINNERS PANNING CLASS BY THE Clear Creek Prospectors Store

Howdy JJ

I'm planning for the weather to be great on Sunday the 14th of April. Because I'm sooo sure the weather will co-operate that day I'll be giving the free beginners panning class. 1/2 day class then they will be on the creek. Those interested should meet at the **Clear Creek Prospectors Store located at 70th and Broadway in Adams County by 10 am.** They should bring rubber boots, gloves, hat, appropriate clothing, shovel, and a gold pan. (A pail to sit on would be nice)

Happy Trails,

Johnny Walker

Prospecting/Mining Notes:

From the Denver Post

03-15-13 Colorado Capital Building Dome to be recovered in gold: Seven gold ingots, richly gleaming, fit into the palms of two hands. That is all the gold that will be needed, a mere 65 ounces, to rebuild the entire dome of the State Capital building. The gold has been donated by the AngloGold Ashanti and Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Co. (which the GPR Club has toured several times). In 1908, Colorado miners donated 299 ounces to cover the dome and it



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

was last recovered in 1991 when the gold was derived from several international sources. But, once again, the covering is Colorado gold. The work will start very soon and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2014.

03-15-13 Canon City – Judge backs state policy on bail in Cotter Case: A Denver District Court judge has ruled that the Colo Dept of Pub Health and Enviro followed proper procedures setting bail for the cleanup of the Cotter Uranium Mill. The judge told opponents that they were wrong when they maintained the bail had not been high enough. Cotter had agreed to put up \$7 million in support of the cleanup and that was in assurance of \$21 million to cover termination of its radioactive materials license. The Cotter Mill has been leaking uranium into Ralston Creek for years and the levels of contamination have reached significantly dangerous levels within the mine itself. The US EPA believes Cotter's Plan of Reclamation will work and has signed off on the Plan.

03-15-13 Mining as a Competition: Students from around the world are traveling to Golden, Colo., to enter the International Intercollegiate Mining Games. Held at the Colorado School of Mines, the 35th edition of the competition will feature more than 40 teams from around the world competing in 7 events challenging the brawn for modern day miners with old school tasks. Competition includes 2-man jack legging, panning for gold, laying train/mining track, drilling in concrete and other forms of competition. (*Clancy Harmon will be speaking to the Club in April on Mine Safety and Rescue*).

03-15-13 Commission scrutinizes gold prices: U.S. Regulators are scrutinizing whether prices are being manipulated in the world's largest gold market. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is examining the setting of prices in London, in which a handful of banks meet twice daily and set the spot prices for a troy ounce of gold. The CFTC is looking at whether the setting of prices is transparent. No investigation has been opened as of yet.

03-15-13 Molycorp posts loss, to cut jobs: Greenwood Village based Molycorp said that they planned to cut an unspecified number of jobs as it reported a fourth quarter loss following its takeover of Neo Material Technologies, a rare earth processor. The stock has dropped more than 75% over just the last 12 months. Rare earth minerals, mainly produced in China, are used in many items in today's high tech industry. Prices rose dramatically for the 17 metal group in 2010 and 2011 as China clamped down on exports, prompting a rush to develop new global supplies. Prices have dropped substantially as China has eased their export controls.

03-17-13 Energy Industry confirms hydrocarbon spill at in Parachute, Colo: Oil and gas officials confirmed Saturday that an underground plume of hydrocarbons larger than 1500 gallons exists 4 miles north of Parachute, Colorado, along Parachute creek. The source of the plume (leak) that is near the Williams Midstream's Parachute Creek Gas Plant has not been positively identified. The leak is believed to be much larger than the 1500 gallons recovered and removed at this time. The Colorado Gas and Oil Conservation Commission issued (COGCC) issued a cease and desist order to Williams and WPX Energy on Friday until the mess is figured out. (*as of 3-20-13, the spill had grown to more than 100,000 gallons...not good at all*)

03-17-13 "Prospectors" Show expected to be a Gem: A new show will premiere March 26 at 7pm on the Weather Channel called 'Prospectors'. The show will follow several mining families in the Colorado mountains for 9 episodes. The show was pitched to the Discovery and History Channels but the producers, High Noon Entertainment based in Colorado, stated that they had a history with the Weather Channel for the show 'Hurricane Hunters' and they stepped up for the new show. The 9 shows brought an estimated 1.8 million to the Colo. Economy and employed 34 people according to the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

Panning Demo for the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

On March 9, the Club conducted a panning demo for the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo which was held at the National Western Complex in Denver. This was a very large event and the Club was located in the 'Cowboy Trails' Section of the Event. This particular day was on the day of the big snow storm so that prevented a lot of folks from making it out there but we were still able to have a very successful demonstration. I want to thank Mike Hurtado, Joe Johnston and Brandon Luchtenburg for their assistance in insuring that this event went off without a hitch and everybody had a good time, weather notwithstanding. Unfortunately, President Long forgot to take any photographs this time.!



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

April Birthstone is Diamond

Diamond is the ultimate gemstone, having few weaknesses and many strengths. It is well known that Diamond is the hardest substance found in nature, but few people realize that Diamond is *four times harder* than the next hardest natural mineral, corundum (sapphire and ruby). But even as hard as it is, it is not impervious. Diamond has four directions of cleavage, meaning that if it receives a sharp blow in one of these directions it will cleave, or split. A skilled diamond setter and/or jeweler will prevent any of these directions from being in a position to be struck while mounted in a jewelry piece. As a gemstone, Diamond's single flaw (perfect cleavage) is far outdistanced by the sum of its positive qualities. It has a broad color range, high refraction, high dispersion or fire, very low reactivity to chemicals, rarity, and of course, extreme hardness and durability.



Diamond is the April birthstone, and an alternate Zodiac stone for the Constellation of Aries. Diamond is the ultimate gemstone in several ways:

- **Hardness:** Diamond is a perfect "10", simply the hardest substance known by a wide margin. Nothing can scratch a diamond other than another diamond. And a diamond can scratch anything, even a sapphire.
- **Clarity:** Pure diamond is completely colorless and transparent over a larger range of wavelengths (from the ultraviolet into the far infrared) than is any other solid or liquid substance - nothing else even comes close.
- **Thermal Conductivity:** Diamond conducts heat better than anything - five times better than the second best element, Silver! This characteristic is the basis for "diamond tests", as it is simple and cannot be faked.
- **Refraction:** Diamond has a relatively high index of refraction (ability to bend light), which gives it the high luster called adamantine.
- **Dispersion:** Diamond has a relatively high optical dispersion which gives diamond the "fire" that makes it so desirable.

Diamonds may be nearly any color in the rainbow plus browns, grays, and white. Shades of yellow are most common, followed by colorless. Blue, black, reddish, and greenish are more valuable (some extremely so).

Diamonds are found in a type of rock called "Kimberlite", which comprises the core of certain volcanoes over especially thick portions of the earth's crust. This hard stone is mined and then crushed between giant steel rollers. The kimberlite is reduced to fine gravel, yet the extremely hard diamonds come out unharmed! Water is added and a grease covered roller sorts the diamonds from the gravel, as the diamonds stick to the grease. Typically, a single carat of diamond is recovered from a ton of rich ore.

Diamonds are found in many areas including South Africa, Russia, and even in Arkansas in the USA. In all cases, the diamonds formed deep within the earth's mantle, and were brought to the surface in volcanic eruptions. In many cases, the diamonds weathered out of the kimberlite by natural processes, and were transported downstream by water. Many diamonds are mined in the resulting alluvial deposits in areas such as along the coast of South Africa.

(Reprinted from Internet Google site of Gemstone.com)



A Miner's Laugh

The son of an old miner goes off to college. Half way through the semester, he has foolishly squandered all his money. So he calls home.

"Dad," he says, "You won't believe what modern education is developing! They actually have a program here in college that will teach our dog, Ol' Blue, how to talk!" "That's amazing," the old miner says. "How do I get Ol' Blue in that program?" "Just send him down here with \$1,000" the young man says. "I'll get him in the course. So, his father sends the dog and \$1,000.

About two-thirds of the way through the semester, the money again runs out. The boy calls home. "So how's Ol' Blue doing son?" his father asks. "Awesome, Dad, he's talking up a storm," he says, "but you just won't believe this. They've had such good results they have started to teach the animals how to read!" "Read!?" says his father, "No kidding! How do we get Blue in that program?" "Just send \$2,500, I'll get him in the class." The money promptly arrives. But the young man has a problem. At the end of the year, his father will find out the dog can neither talk, nor read. So he shoots the dog.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

When he arrives home at the end of the year, his father is all excited. "Where's Ol' Blue? I just can't wait to see him read something and talk!" "Dad," the boy says, "I have some grim news. Yesterday morning, just before we left to drive home, Ol' Blue was in the living room, kicked back in the recliner, reading the Wall Street Journal, like he usually does. Then he turned to me and asked, "So, is your daddy still messing around with that little redhead who lives down the street from the mine?"

The old miner exclaimed, "I hope you shot that SOB before he talks to your Mother!" The boy replied very sincerely; "I sure did, Dad!"

The old miner sighed in great relief and replied, "Well done son!"

The kid went on to law school, and now serves in Washington D.C., as a Congressman.

(Taken from the internet, author unknown)

Back in the Days! by Jim Long

EMPIRE: (Valley City, Union City) Early prospectors in the Central City area traveled by there over old Union Pass in the early 1860's. It wasn't until 1864 that they paused long enough to find some ore. But prior to that time, Empire had been the important stop on the pass. A hotel, blacksmith shop and combination grocery and post office were constructed. With the discovery of gold, several more cabins and buildings were built.



Lewis' Sweet Shop in Empire

The site was originally called Valley City. For a short while, it was also known officially as Union City to demonstrate the resident's sympathy for the northern cause in the Civil War. "Empire" comes from the nickname of New York, the home state of many of the early residents. Fifteen hundred people were here during the early boom, but lack of water and good ores soon drove the residents to other boom towns. The camp suffered from isolation. Supplies were hard to come by and were expensive. Butter ran as high as three dollars a pound, eggs were three dollars a dozen, and hay 200 dollars a ton. The situation was alleviated somewhat when good hay meadows were found over an old Indian pass down in South Park.

The pass was improved upon, as were the roads from Georgetown and Central City. And, although Empire was kaput as a mining town, it became an important stage and supply town, feeding the booming cities over the pass. The city never died out completely, although it had more than its share of ups and downs. Generally, however, the population has ranged between 100 and 200 through the years. There was some mining here this century, but not very much. Empire is currently experiencing a tourist and winter sports boom, which promises to increase through the years as the endless recreational facilities of northern Colorado continue to be developed.

NORTH EMPIRE and EMPPIRE STATION: (Empire Junction) Two "suburbs" of Empire when the latter was booming. North Empire was a mile above Empire and connected to it by a good road which served as the main street of the suburb. The Negus Placer Mine was the big mine at North Empire. It produced about \$50,000.00 in 1878-79. There was also a mill here.

Empire Station was a mile below Empire near the Georgetown cutoff. It was mostly a railroad siding and station for Empire.

LAWSON: Alexander Lawson built an inn here in the early 1870's. It was a lavish place he called "The Six Mile Inn" because it was exactly six miles from Georgetown. Lawson prospered as his place became a popular stop along the well-traveled road.

Lawson soon went into the freighting business. His wagons were in constant use throughout the region. He also ran a stage line between Georgetown and Silver Plume. He was making all kinds of money. And his business wasn't hurt any when gold was found in 1876 on nearby Red Elephant Mountain and Silver Creek.



Lawson, 1893

A town sprang up around Lawson's Inn. Lawson, that is what the town was named, was a prosperous and busy place through the 80's and part of the 1890's. The population topped 500 most of the time and many other businessmen moved in to get some of the Lawson gravy.

But eventually, the mines closed one by one, and the residents drifted off. Lawson has also undergone a revival of sorts which began a few years back and depends on the resort and tourist trade.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

Excerpts taken from Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps by Perry Eberhart, 1959

For Sale

Gold King 3" Hi-banker/dredge attachment with adjustable stand and 5 hp pump

- 125 feet of hose

Gold Buddy drywasher w/o blower motor

Gold Grabber Hi-banker

Schmidt Gold Trap "Bazooka" 4"-3" dredge

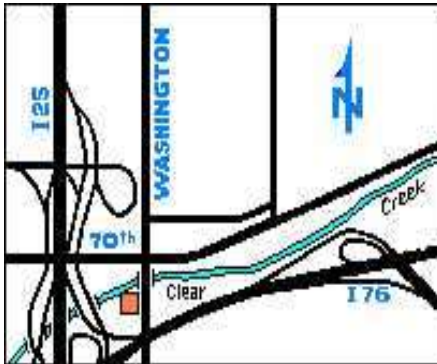
- Crevice tool and crevice nozzle

Rock net and steel cable

All for about the price of an ounce Of gold...\$1700.00

Call Eric at 303-833-6848

TYMKOVICH MEATS



Established 1952
 6911 N.
 Washington St,
 Denver, CO 80229
 (303) 288-8655
 Open Wed-Sat
 9:30 to 5:30
 (Closed Sun-Tue)

GOLD - N - DETECTORS

A METAL DETECTING &
 PROSPECTING
 CENTER



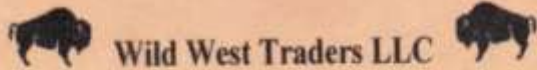
(303) 278-6622

802 Washington Ave.
 Golden, CO 80401

"Denver area's award winning hobby store, where we do what we sell."

- Metal Detectors
- High Bankers
- Rock Tumblers
- Books
- Goldpans
- Dredges
- Rock Picks
- Accessories

Open 9-6 Monday through Saturday



COINS GOLD SILVER

Buy - Sell Collections - Scrap

Historic, Rare, and Unusual Coins

Downtown Golden by the Welcome Arch

1111 Washington Ave Ste #105 303-279-1844

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Gold Nugget

Gold Prospectors of the Rockies
PO Box 150096
Lakewood, Co 80215-0096

ADVERTISING 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
- 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
- 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
- 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for MAY 2013

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Loyalty Day	2	3 Newsletter Advert/Article Conv Deadline	4
5 Cinco De Mavo	6	7	8 V-E Day	9	10 Military Spouse Day	11 Twilight Zone Day
12 MOTHER'S Day	13 Frog Jumping Day	14	15 GPR Club Meeting	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 MEMORIAL Day	28	29	30	31	