

# THE GOLD NUGGET

March 2015

## 2015 Member Dues are Past Due Now

Members will need to complete a new Application to update the Club Records

### The Prez Sez by Jim Long



With all the snow we have been having this last month, it makes it tough to get out very much and get anything done. Hopefully, we will be able to get the next couple of tours in and the Beginner's Class coming up in March. And speaking of the Beginner's Class, it might be time to rehash the information that I offered a year ago for the benefit of some of our newer and less experienced members.

Since some of you are new to this game and relatively inexperienced, I am going to try to make this simple. You don't need to spend more than about \$150.00 dollars to have all you need to get as much gold as you want. So save your hard earned dollars and don't buy all that stuff in the magazines and on E-bay or on U-tube. Until you have mastered the basics, you only need some basic equipment. All that other stuff is just

going to soak your wallet and you aren't going to find any more gold than you will with what I tell you that you will need. So first of all, you need to have a little patience. If you don't have patience, prospecting probably isn't for you. If you think you are going to go out and find a million dollars' worth of gold and retire next week, we need to seriously sit down and talk. That ain't going to happen. So what do you need?

Well, you need some rubber boots and rubber gloves. You need a shovel, any old shovel pretty much will do and you need a couple of 5 gallon buckets. You need a 14" green pan with riffles in it (\$22.00). You need a 1/2 inch screen (\$20.00), a number 8 screen (\$22.00), and a black 8" pan (\$8.00). You need a plastic/metal scoop (\$6.00), a snuffer bottle (\$3.00) and a glass/plastic vial (\$.50) to put your gold in. These prices are close but not exact, depending on where you get your equipment. If you have to buy a shovel (\$20.00) or a bucket (\$5.00), it adds a little more. Knee high boots are about \$18.00, and a pair of booted Hodgeman's hip waders will run about \$35.00. And you are all set. That comes to about \$150.00 or so and that is all you need to go prospecting pretty much anywhere.

Now you need to have someone experienced to teach you how to use all that stuff and show you why it is so important to have these items in your arsenal. So you sign up for one of the two Beginner Classes that I conduct each spring and fall. And there, I will teach you hands on, how to use all that stuff you just bought. I will tell you how it is used and then I will show you how it is used. Then I make you do it. And we practice until you have the idea. But you will have to set up some equipment at home to make yourself become more proficient, and especially in the Art of panning. This is where that patience I told you that you are going to desperately need comes in. Most folks don't master the technique in a mere couple of minutes. Some catch on rather quickly and others take a little longer. But once you get it, it is like magic and the whole thing gets so much easier. You will need one additional item to practice panning at home and that is a black masonry tub from Lowe's or Home Depot that runs about \$5.00. And that is about it. You will be ready to go prospecting and find gold.

After you get good at this part of it, we will maybe have you invest about 120.00 more for a good sluice box and you will then be able to go anywhere in the country and find as much gold as anybody else is getting, and your total investment will not exceed \$275.00. Don't let anybody sucker you into spending hundreds of dollars on all kinds of equipment with the promise of finding more gold and getting more gold and blah, blah, blah. Take it from me, you will more than likely struggle trying to figure out how to use that stuff and eventually just wind up selling it later on at e-bay or a garage sale because you got too frustrated trying to learn how to use it or it doesn't measure up to your expectations. Start out slow and learn how to use the basic stuff properly and then take it a step at a time. The old timers started out with nothing but pans, pick and shovel, and then went to rocker boxes or sluice boxes. It worked for them and pretty danged well I might add. It will work for you as well!

And that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your search! And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at [jnslong945@msn.com](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com)

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!



## The V.P. Corner by “Klondike” Mike



### The Lost Ventana Mine

The Lost Ventana Mine this is another mystery that has caught my eye. And I think all you folks will enjoy this one. Here we go, an aura of mystery and Timelessness surrounds the San Juan Mountains. Indeed, some sections of the Old Spanish Trail through the San Juan wilderness are still marked by trees blazed by early Spanish explorers and travelers. Old Spanish pits, arrastres, and tunnel can be found throughout the San Juans. The La Plata Mountains have yielded abundant evidence of Early Spanish mining activities including the skeleton of a mam clad in Spanish armor and the remains of primitive arrastres and sluice boxes. The Escalante-Dominguez expedition found evidence of earlier mining activities in the La Platas when they passed through the area in 1776. Anglo-American prospectors in the Silverton area also encountered abundant signs of early Spanish activity. Arrastre Gulch, near Silverton, contain old Spanish arrastres actually cut into the bedrock. An old mine found in Poughkeepsie Gulch, north of Silverton, contained primitive copper tools of Spanish make. Tree-ring dating of timbers left in an old Spanish mine on Elk Creek, near Silverton, yielded a cutting date of 1712.

Tales of lost mines and caches in the San Juan Mountains are rife, but many are historically based. Indeed, the existence of many lost mines in the San Juans is supported by official Documentation (including assay records in Durango, Silverton, and Ouray). Prospectors of the San Juan Mountains should always remember that the Tomboy/Camp Bird region, northeast of Telluride, was scoured for 20 years before the fabulous Camp Bird lode was discovered in 1895. One of the top 3 gold mines in the state of Colorado was found in an area that had been thoroughly prospected for 20 years! Some 25 years before the Escalante-Dominguez expedition of 1776, a group of Spaniards and Frenchman discovered an extremely rich gold mine in 1687; Jean de L'Archeveque was a member of the ill-fated Villasur expedition which was massacred by Pawnee Indians near the Platte River on Aug. 15, 1720. The mine was located near the Continental Divide within sight of those two famous landmarks: La Ventana the Window, and El Serro de la Piramide (the Rio Grande Pyramid). According to Felecito Garcia the “Window” could be seen from the portal of the mine!

The miners quickly established a routine of working the mine transporting the Ore to local caches, somewhere in the mountains surrounding O'Neil Park. This cache has never been found. After each season, the miners carefully concealed the portal of the mine with timber and rocks. The Ventana Mine was worked for several years until the early 1770's when the miners' luck ran out. Ute Indians attacked the Spaniards while they were working the mine, killing several. The panic-stricken survivors fled from the mine but were ambushed again by the Utes... This time Toribio Hernandez and Rene de L'Archeveque were killed. Felecito Garcia was one of the few survivors to emerge from the wilderness. Before he died, Garcia revealed the location of the mine to his son. Garcia told him that it was west of La Ventana, somewhere on the Ute Creek drainage, and that the “window” could actually be seen from the portal of the mine. The legend of the Lost Ventana Mine was born. (In 1919, an alleged descendent of Felecito Garcia entered the San Juans in search of the lost mine. Jose Garcia combed the slopes of Ute Ridge but found nothing. Here in Colorado we have so much lost mining History that it would take me years to cover just half of it, which is why I enjoy it so much. I sit at home with all the new books I find and just read. When I find a good story that I think you would like to hear about I relay back to you in my column, and the The Lost Ventana Mine is just one of them. Well again if you have any questions you can contact me at 720-443-9545. Klondike-Mike

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Linda Luchtenburg



The March Meeting will feature a nine nugget give away totaling 10.3 grams of gold with the largest nugget being a beauty of 2.8 grams. We will also be selling tickets for the ‘special nugget’. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase tickets for these nuggets in which your chances of winning are far better than the Colorado Lottery.



**Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3**

**Planned GPR Meeting Programs:**

**Mar. 18:** This month, we will feature a short 30 minute presentation by **Deb Zack** of the **State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety Inactive Mine Program**. We anticipate that this will be a very good program and a ‘really need to see’.

**Apr. 15:** We will be showing another video with pictures and such of the **Homestake Mine of South Dakota as filmed in 1985**, to show the difference in mining techniques from 1940 to 1985.

**May 20:** We will be presenting a 45 minute presentation by **Richard Sweeney** on **Modern Gold Assaying Techniques**. Richard will have some ‘show and tell’ items of the trade and puts on a fantastic program about gold assaying. You don’t want to miss this one!

**Jun. 17** The first of a 2 part video from the Natl. Geographic Channel entitled **“Lost Gold of the Dark Ages”**. This video uncovers the secrets of the largest hoard of Saxon Gold ever found.

**July 15** This will be part 2 of the NG Channel video **“Lost Gold of the Dark Ages”**. This will conclude the story of the discovery of the largest hoard of Saxon Gold ever found.

**Aug 19** This month we will be showing History Channel DVD of the **“Klondike Gold Rush”**. This 50 minute program will highlight what the ‘Old Timers’ went through in the search for gold in Alaska.

**Sept 16** This month will be a presentation from the A&E Channel titled **“Inca Gold”**. This 50 minute DVD highlights an expedition into the Ecuadorian wilderness in search of a legendary gold horde of 750,000 pounds.

**Where is ‘Prospector Pete’, the GPR Gold Miner?**

We assign our Gold Miner, called ‘Prospector Pete’, to a lucky recipient by drawing each month. The idea is to take ‘Prospector Pete’ along with you during your travels and take a photograph of you and he doing something related to mining. Take a photograph at the location and bring ‘Pete’ back to the next meeting for the next person to win. Send your photograph of yourself and ‘Pete’ to President Long at [jnslong945@msn.com](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com) and we will publish it in the Newsletter each month. It should be fun to see where our Gold Miner winds up throughout the coming year. There are no limits, just take care of ‘Pete’ and treat him gently and show him the big world out there. At the February meeting, ‘Pete’ selected D.D. Tucker as his caretaker until the March meeting. There was no photo of ‘Pete’ at press time.

**Board Meeting Minutes From Feb 2015**

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston	X	Terry Weatherly		Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Linda Luchtenburg	X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll		

**Quorum present?** Yes

**Call to Order:** By Mike at 6:06 pm

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Yes Corrections: None  
Approved as read/corrected: Yes

**Treasurer’s Report:** Questions: None .Approved: yes

**Correspondence:** 14 phone calls, 26 e-mails, 19 mailings

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 139057 Hits for last month 347.

**Committee Reports:**

- Pres. Long still working on LLC process.
- Pres.Long noted Committee assignments will remain the same for 2015 as 2014.
- John J. will oversee Membership Table and Bobby M. will assist with Outings and deliver brochures to the S of M and Golden Detectors.
- Pres. Long discussed 2014 Annual Financial Report and the 2015 Program Schedule as well as the 2015 Outing Schedule.

**Unfinished business:** LLC Process still pending.

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**  
What company was the world's largest producer of gold in 2012/2013??

<b>2015 GPR Board of Directors Members</b>
<b>President</b> James Long
<b>Vice President</b> Mike Hurtado
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Linda Luchtenburg
<b>2 Year Board Members</b> Joe Johnston (2013) Joe Shubert (2011)
<b>1 Year Board Members</b> Joe Fortunato Terry Weatherly Andy Doll Brandon Luchtenburg John Johnson Bobby Manning



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

**New Business:** The Board voted to continue the Club's PLP Membership as well as the WWMI Membership. It also voted to send \$100 to the WWMI to improve access signage.

### Planned Outings for 2015:

- Feb. 28 Sat **Tour** of Money Museum in Colo Sprgs, 1030am, \$4.00 per person.
- Mar. 21 Sat **Tour** of School of Mines Geology Museum, 10a.
- Mar. 28 Sat **Beginners Panning Class**, 9a-12n, 6811 N. Washington, Adams County.

### From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed several internet petitions circulating concerning Obama's proposed budget which is negative to small scale mining.
- Andy D. reported that Office Max would be raising their printing costs for the mailing of newsletters.
- Joe F. notes that Whites has introduced the new 'Z' model of metal detector which will run \$10,000.00 and will detect 33% deeper than the 5000 model.
- Mike H. was requested to make additional tri-fold brochures. He also announced that Eggers Lapidary Shop in Golden is going out of business in June. The business is up for sale.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting Mar. 18, 2015 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Mar. 18, 2015 at 7:00pm

**Tonight's general meeting program:** A History Channel DVD entitled 'The Quest for King Solomon's Gold' which will run for about 50 minutes.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:52 pm.

## General Meeting Minutes From Feb 2015

1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced the evening program which will be a DVD from the History Channel entitled 'The Quest for King Solomon's Gold' which will run about 50 minutes.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1212.60 an ounce, silver at \$16.50, platinum at \$1170.00 and palladium at \$776.00.
4. Web hits for last month were 347.
5. **Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg** reported that the Club remains very comfortable in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the 15.1 gram 'Special Nugget' drawing that is now on sale. This is an Arizona nugget that was a metal detector find.
6. **John Johnson** reported from the Membership Table that we had approx. 74 members in attendance. There were also 3 guests present, as well as 3 new members. The meeting attendance was 80.
7. **Pres. Long** read the '**Question of the Month**', which was 'What percentage of the European Central Bank's reserves was held in gold in 2014?'
8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the '**Finds of the Month**' table and everyone was encouraged to check them out and vote accordingly during the break. Remember, only one entry per person per category. Winners of the Finds of the Month for tonight will need to be saved for competition in November.
9. **John Johnson** announced the new Cache Clue #4.
10. **Pam and George Schmitt** were ill and not able to attend tonight's meeting.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that we are seeking a volunteer(s) to take over the Registration Table. Anyone interested should contact Pres. Long. A reminder that the 2015 dues are due. Pres. Long informed the membership that the High Plains Chapter of the GPAA has dissolved. Some of their members may be joining our Club and we will be happy to welcome them aboard. Pres. Long also informed the membership that Eggers Lapidary Shop in Golden will be closing in June. The Rock Shop in Colorado Springs will also be closing soon. Pres. Long advised there would be a sign up sheet for the upcoming Tour of the Money Museum in Colo. Sprgs and that the Tour was being moved to Feb 28 as it was expected to be extreme weather on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A reminder was given of the upcoming Tour at the School of Mines on March 21 and the Beginners Panning/sluicing Class on March 28. There was nothing else of note to be discussed and nothing was offered from the Floor.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:15pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:30pm.
13. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 7 winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was '28%'. The extra drawing tickets were passed out to the lucky winners.
14. **Pres. Long** announced that there were 4 winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
  - **Best Coin**, winner was **Adam Wilson and Cara Dauderman** with a gold presidential dollar found in Weir Gulch.
  - **Best Artifact**, winner was **Ray LePage** with a chunk of petrified wood that he found in Adams County.
  - **Most Raw Gold** winner was **Kevin Singel** with 6.35 grams of gold that he found in Clear Creek.
  - **Best Bottle** winner was **Bobby Manning** with a bottle he found in Ralston Creek.
15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings 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 in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Linda Luchtenburg**.
16. **Pres. Long** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
17. **Pres. Long** thanked **Kris and Joe 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.
18. The scheduled **Program for March** will be a presentation by Deb Zack of the Colorado State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety Inactive Mine Program. This should be a great program.
19. Until next time, remember to prospect safely, live long and be grateful for that golden bounty from the stars, that gleaming magical miracle, called 'gold'!
20. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

## **Schedule of 2015 Planned Outings:**

We are starting another new year and are in the process of scheduling speakers and programs, outings, tours and other events for the year. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact a Board Member with your ideas and information. We want to try to provide the things you are interested in. We tentatively have at least 20 or more events planned for 2015. We are no longer printing the schedule in the newsletter as a copy was provided in the last email and copies will be sent in future to new members and as changes to the schedule occur, So print it out and hang it up.

**SCHEDULE CHANGE: SCHOOL OF MINES MUSEUM TOUR SCHEDULED FOR MAR 21 IS NOW MAR 28 AT 3:30P, SAME DAY AS BIGGINERS PANNING CLASS AT 9AM.**

## **Finds of the Month**

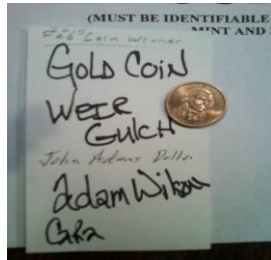
February winners were as follows:

- **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with a total of 6.35 grams of gold from Clear Creek
- **Best Coin** – **Adam Wilson and Cara Dauderman** with a John Adams gold dollar found in Weir Gulch
- **Best Bottle** – **Bobby Manning** with a bottle found in Ralston Creek
- **Best Artifact** – **Ray LePage** with some petrified wood found in Adams County





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. Winners each month will have their name published each month in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Thanks to Rich Beasley and all those who submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.

## **New Treasure Hunt Starting in Denver Area**

There is a new treasure hunt starting here in Denver Colorado on February 1st. Just go to [www.tenacioustreasuretracker.com](http://www.tenacioustreasuretracker.com) and click on "The Hunt" page on February 1st and read the rules and the clues to find the planted coin. The prize for the hunter that finds the coin is \$100.00 cash, a metal detector style T-Shirt and a trophy. Every Thursday of every week that the coin is not found a new clue will be posted. The Hunt page will be live at midnight February 1st. The Hunt is being sponsored by Brian Henry of Tenacious Treasure Trackers.

## **Prospecting/Mining Notes**

(mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

**2-2-15 Gold Posts Biggest Gain in 3 Years:** Gold futures rose dramatically on Friday, capping the biggest monthly gain in 3 years after government data showed the economy expanded at a slower pace than forecast in the fourth quarter, reigniting demand for the metal as a haven.

**2-2-15 Smuggler Mountain Mineral Rights Set:** Aspen and Pitkin County's open space programs have secured mineral rights beneath the jointly owned Smuggler Mountain Open space. The winning bid was \$34,000 at an auction in Glenwood Springs. Acquiring the mineral rights eliminates the future attempts to conduct mining operations in open space. *(hummm...a sign of things to come across the rest of Colorado...?? JJ)*

**2-8-15 Silver \$645 Million Wipeout in One Day Flashes Warning:** Investing in silver is not for the faint of heart. The metal's price swings have rattled investors so much that even a 10% rally last month wasn't enough to boost purchases of exchange traded funds backed by silver. The volatility of silver in the past five years has been about double that of gold. A week after nearing a bull market, prices on Jan. 29 fell the most since 2013, wiping out \$645 million in one day from the value of global funds linked to silver.

**2-10-15 Soda Ash Mine Sold:** A large trona mine in southwest Wyoming is getting a new owner. FMC Corp is selling its Green River operation, Alkali Chemicals, to an international company, Tronox, for \$1.64 billion dollars. The sale will not be final until April 2014. The transaction should bring more strength and stability to the Green River operation for potential future growth.

**2-20-15 Miner's Earnings Exceed Estimates:** Newmont Mining Corp., the biggest US gold miner, reported fourth quarter earnings that beat analysis' estimates after costs fell more than expected.. Net income was \$15 million, or 3 cents a share, compared with a loss of \$1.19 billion, or \$2.38 a year earlier.

**2-20-15 Nome is Eyed for Arctic Port:** A historic Alaska gold mining city could be the first place where the federal government invests in a deep water port to serve vessels in the Arctic waters. The US Army Corps of Engineers is preparing to release a study for public comment that suggests expanding the Port of Nome as a first step in improving infrastructure along Alaska's west and north coast.

**2-23-15 Miners Trapped by Fire are Found Safe:** Some 486 miners trapped underground after a fire broke out at a South African gold mine have been found safe, according to a company spokesperson. Another 18 miners who had been missing were later also found safe. A rescue mission was bringing everyone out safely.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

**Western Museum of Mining and Industry** 1025 No. Gate Blvd., Colo. Springs., Colo.

**Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2015, at 3pm: Family Exploration Day: Sciences**

Join WMMI as we spend the day exploring the world of science with experiments and more that strengthen and support the key educational areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Come see Cool Science, CSU Energy Conservation Demonstrations, Thompson Machines, Bricks-4-Kidz, and more! All activities included with standard museum admission rates.

### **A Miner's Laugh**

One day, an old miner saw a farmer selling a donkey for \$100.00. The old miner told the farmer that he would buy the donkey for the \$100 if the farmer would deliver it to his house. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day but when he arrived at the old miner's house, there was no donkey. The farmer told the old miner that the donkey had died during the night. Saddened, the old miner asked for his money back, but the farmer informed him that he had already spent the money. The old miner said, "Well, then just give me the donkey." "What are you going to do with a dead donkey?" the farmer asked. The old miner replied that he would think of something. So, the farmer delivered the dead donkey to the old miner the next day.



The next month, the farmer saw the old miner and asked him what he had done with the dead donkey. The old miner said "Why, I made \$895.00 off of that dead donkey." The farmer asked, "How could you make that much money off a dead donkey?" The old miner replied "I didn't tell anyone he was dead at first. I just put up signs around town that said I was going to raffle off a beautiful donkey and that the tickets would cost \$5 dollars each and I sold 200 tickets." "Now wait a minute" said the farmer, "You said you made \$895 dollars but if you sold 200 tickets at \$5 dollars each, that would be \$1000 dollars. After you subtract the \$100 dollars you paid me, you should have \$900 dollars left!" "You're right", said the old miner, "But when the winner found out that the donkey was dead, he was a little upset, so I gave him his money back!!"

*(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners.) 03/15*

### **Tour of Money Museum**

On Feb. 28, members of the Club traveled to Colorado Springs to take a tour of the Money Museum. This collection of the world's money from the beginning of time to current is one of the world's best collections and was very interesting, especially the collection of gold coins and the recovered sunken treasures.

The Money Museum is located at 818 North Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. The building is on the campus of the Colorado College adjacent to the Colorado Springs Fine Art Center. The museum is closed Sunday and Monday and open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. If visitors are members of the American Numismatic Association admission is free. General admission is five dollars for seniors 55 and over, and four dollars for military and students with an ID. School groups are welcomed and guides tours are available. The museum is set up for self-guided tours, however. It will take approximately one to three hours to see the museum.

Visitors will find when they visit the museum the art, science and history of money and other related items. There are three main galleries in the museum where rare money can be seen. Guests will not only learn about the history of money they will also learn about the history of our nation and the world through the use of money. There is a multi-media gallery that is home to the Harry W. Bass collection and the gallery bears the Bass family name. In this gallery guests will see American gold coins, paper money and experimental pattern coins. At the main level of the museum guests will see the new exhibit that is changed yearly. These exhibits are designed to appeal to diverse interests. The exhibit may include history, archaeology, art, economics, banking and coin collecting. Other exhibits include the Maynard-Sundman Gallery and the Whitman Publishing Gallery. They are located on the lower level of the museum. These two galleries also have new exhibits each year. The focus of these exhibits is on the aspects of numismatics and coin collecting. The Money Museum has more than 250,000 objects that speak of the history of numismatics that encompasses the earliest money to modern day money. Guests may see paper money, tokens, coins, medals, traditional money for the world's nations and exonomia. Some of the money on exhibit includes a George O. Walton 1913 Liberty nickel, an 1804 dollar and an 1866 no motto series. Exhibits that have been at the museum include: Lincoln's Legacy: A Nation United, Explore America! A



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

New Look for an Old Coin, Victory at All Costs: Money of World War II, Money Makes the World Go Round, The Presidents Are Coming, Spades, Knives and Cash: The History of Chinese Coinage, Numismatics of the Olympic Games, Money in Early America, Currency in Conflict: Money of the Civil War and Benjamin Franklin: A Man for All Times. There are two larger traveling exhibits that have or may come to the Money Museum and they are: Money of the World Today: A Portrait of Global Society and "Viva la Revolucion!" The Money of the Mexican Revolution!

If you haven't been to this museum, it has gotta be on your bucket list of things to do..!! Many thanks to our tour guide, Milt, who was extremely informative. Pres. Long took a couple of photos.



The Museum



Tour Guide Milt

## What is Amalgamation?

The Pan amalgamation process is a method to extract silver from ore, using mercury. The process was widely used from 1609 through the 19th century; it is no longer used. The patio process had been used to extract silver from ore since its invention in 1557. One drawback of the patio process was the long treatment time, usually weeks. Alvaro Alonso Barba invented the faster *pan* process (in Spanish the *cazo* or *fondo* process) in 1609 in Potosi, Bolivia, in which ore was mixed with salt and mercury (and sometimes copper(II) sulfate) and heated in shallow copper vessels. The treatment time was reduced to 10 to 20 hours. Whether patio or pan amalgamation was used at a particular location often depended on climate (warmer conditions speeded the patio process) and the availability and cost of fuel to heat the pans. The amount of salt and copper (II) sulfate varied from one-quarter to ten pounds of one or the other, or both, per ton of ore treated. The loss of mercury in amalgamation processes was generally one to two times the weight of silver recovered.

### The Patio Process

Silver ores were crushed (typically either in "arrastras" or stamp mills to a fine slime which was mixed with salt, water, magistral (essentially an impure form of copper sulfate, and mercury, and spread in a 1-to-2-foot-thick (0.30 to 0.61 m) layer in a patio, (a shallow-walled, open enclosure). Horses were driven around on the patio to further mix the ingredients. After weeks of mixing and soaking in the sun, a complex reaction converted the silver to native metal, which formed an amalgam with the mercury and was recovered. The amount of salt and copper sulfate varied from one-quarter to ten pounds of one or the other, or both, per ton of ore treated. The decision of how much of each ingredient to add, how much mixing was needed, and when to halt the process depended on the skill of an *azoguero* (English: quicksilver man). The loss of mercury in amalgamation processes is generally one to two times the weight of silver recovered. The patio process was the first form of amalgamation. However, it is unclear whether this process or a similar process—in which amalgamation occurred in heated vats rather than open patios—was the predominant form of amalgamation in New Spain, as the earliest known illustration of the patio process dates from 1761. There is substantial evidence that both processes were used from an early date in New Spain, while open patios were never adopted in Peru. Both processes



Patio process at the Gould and Curry Mill,



Amalgamation pans in the Comstock Lode, Virginia City, Nevada, 1900

required that ore be crushed and refiners quickly established mills to process ore once amalgamation was introduced. By the seventeenth century, water-powered mills became dominant in both New Spain and Peru. Due to amalgamation's reliance upon mercury, an expansion of mercury production was central to the expansion of silver production. From shortly after the invention of mercury amalgamation to the end of the colonial period, the Spanish crown maintained a monopoly on mercury production and distribution, ensuring a steady supply of royal income. Fluctuations in mercury prices generally resulted in corresponding increases and decreases in silver production.



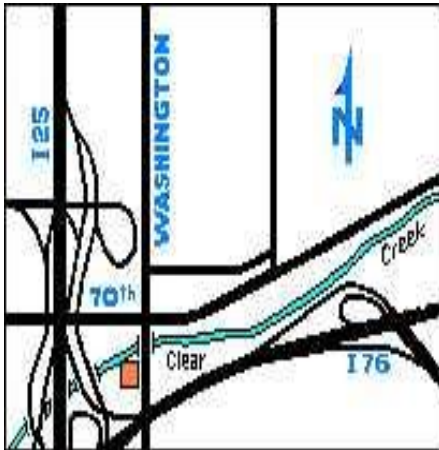


## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

### Pan Amalgamation – the Washoe Process

The Washoe process, a variation of pan amalgamation, was developed in the 1860s by Almarin B. Paul and others, to work the ore from the Comstock Lode in Nevada, United States (Washoe was an early name for the area. In the Washoe process, the copper pans were replaced by iron tanks with mechanical agitators. Each tank ("pan") was circular, and commonly held 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of ore that had been crushed to sand size. Water was added to make a pulp, and 60 to 70 pounds of mercury, along with one-half to three pounds each of salt (sodium chloride) and bluestone (copper(II) sulfate) were also added. A circular iron plate called a *muller* was mounted on a vertical shaft and lowered into the pan, and was rotated to provide both agitation and additional grinding. Heat was delivered to the pans by steam pipes. The iron filings worn from the muller and pan proved to be an essential ingredient in the process.

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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Apr 2015**

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
				<b>Apr 2 WMMI Archaeological Remains of the Leadville</b>	Newsletter Advert/Article Copy Deadline	
5 Easter	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Thomas Jefferson BD	14	15 <b>GPR Club Meeting</b> Tax Day	16	17	18
19	20 Patriot's Day	21	22	23	24 Arbor Day	25
26	27	28	29	30		