

THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2018

Obituary

Donald Neal Luchtenburg



It is with sadness and regret that we report the passing on Christmas Day of our good friend and fellow prospector Don Luchtenburg. Don was a past member/Board member of the Club and a prospecting partner of Pres. Long and the grandfather of current member/Board member Brandon Luchtenburg. Don was 78 at the time of his passing and he always looked forward to the meetings and talking about prospecting. He was an Idahoan by birth and used to prospect there as a young man. We shared many a tale of the Superstition Mountain. and their stories of lost mines and hidden treasures. He leaves behind his wife Marlena, son Neal, daughters Tracey and Terry and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was a friend and will be missed. Donations may be made to the Denver Alzheimer's Association in his name. Rest in Peace, my brother!!



The Prez Sez..! by Jim Long



I want to wish every member a very, very happy New Year. We were fortunate enough to have a white Christmas this winter and the weather has been exceptionally cold ever since. For those of you who have been brave enough to venture out, there is ice along the edges of the Creek, even in Denver, and the water is enough to get your attention. Add a little wind to that and it makes the conditions bad enough that only a few crazy people are willing to risk it. I have prospected through the ice before and you usually can't stand it for more than a couple of hours at best. But it is a pretty cool experience to at least do it once.

The coming year holds promise of finding more gold and there are a lot of opportunities out there to do exactly that. One of the things I hear a lot is 'Where can I go to find some gold?'. Well, there are lots of public places to go. We old miners don't always give up our best spots but there are lots of places to go here in Colorado. While private property has eaten up a lot of access, there is still plenty of public access to go around for those who are willing to get out of the house and even drive for an hour or two if necessary. Of course, you have to realize that finding gold is easy. Usually, what you are going to find here in Colorado is mostly fines, or flour gold, and finding some really isn't all that hard. Finding a lot is all a matter of perspective. There are plenty of places to find larger and chunky gold than just the real small flour stuff. But you gotta go look for it.

A great place to start is on the computer. One of our members, Kevin Single, is known throughout the Club for always finding gold, a feat that he often demonstrates by bringing in some of it each month for the 'Finds Table'. Kevin has put together a web site that you can access at 'findinggoldincolorado.com' where he talks about gold prospecting and places to go. Most of these locations are fairly close to the Denver area and a few a little farther out. But most importantly, they are all public access. Some have

more gold than others and Kevin doesn't really tell you which ones are better than the others. That is not the point. If he did that, then everybody would want to go to the best places first and it wouldn't be long before it would be prospected out. That has been the problem with a lot of the GPAA claims across the country. These claims are usually donated to the GPAA by a member or someone friendly to and supportive of the GPAA effort. But the donation usually comes after the claim has been hard worked by the owner and most of the gold removed. Once the word gets out and it becomes available, every Tom, Dick and Harry heads to it and it isn't long before what gold was left has been pretty well grabbed. But more disturbing is the fact that after the hordes have left, the claim is often full of holes and trash that nobody wants to clean up. That kind of stuff really pisses off the BLM and the USFS and rightly so. That is when the trouble starts and why the GPAA lost a lot of their claims on the Arkansas River. Kevin's site gives you the opportunity to get out and look until you find the place you like the best and prospect. They all have gold and some are better than others. But both Kevin and I hope that everyone will do the right thing and fill their holes, collect trash, and try to leave the place better than how you find it. I know that most of our members do the right thing, but I know there are folks out there who don't. I sincerely applaud Kevin for his efforts in educating and assisting the mining community with all that he has done.

I was asked the other day why we haven't heard anything from the Clear Creek Open Spaces Rangers in the Canyon. My response is that they are not having any real problems anymore in the Canyon because they know that our group and a couple of others are policing it and helping educate folks to do the right thing. When you don't see the Rangers very much, that is a good sign. It means there is no real problem that needs their attention. They can be found wherever and whenever there is trouble afoot. My nephew is a Jefferson County Open Spaces Ranger and I have confirmed all this through him. He says that that is truly the case and they know that when they do have a problem, they can count on our Club to get involved to help correct it. I think that comment goes a long way demonstrating how much impact our Club has had on the Canyon and how much respect we have generated from those who have to enforce the rules and oversee the many multiple resource users that share that canyon. But we have to be ever vigilant to ensure that that trust is not misplaced and that we continue to earn that respect.

The desire to find and have gold can cause people to do things they wouldn't ordinarily do. It affects people differently. From the beginning of time, the search for riches and wealth has driven entire civilizations. It has led to greed and grief for many often destroys good judgment. Today, Forrest Fen's hidden treasure and his poem of clues has led to the death of several adventurers who had visions of wealth but lacked good judgment that has resulted in their death. Tales of the hidden mines and buried treasure are many throughout the West and the lure of gold and riches will continue to draw from throughout our people without regard to status, class, age, sex or culture. Gold is gold. Its' lure reaches out and its tentacles draw people like magnets draw iron. It is hard to resist, it is like magic, and therefore, it is magically irresistible!!

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be! 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 . Happy and safe prospecting to all.!!!

Vice President's Corner



Happy New Year to all of our members!!! I hope that 2018 brings each of you, good times and great finds! Here we are at that time of the year again, where the weather can really put a damper on our efforts to get out and have some fun. We will just have to be patient for the next few months (at least in our neck of the woods). Those warmer days will come

around every ounce in a while, we just have to plan ahead, weather wise, so we are ready to act on short notice when the weather allows. I missed a couple of good opportunities to get out between the Christmas and New Year weekends. I just hope that we get a bit of a warm up soon, I am in need of a panning or detecting fix soon! I treated myself to breakfast this morning (Jan. 2) at the restaurant near my shop. I brought along my latest issue of the Mining Journal magazine, I have read all of the articles before, but always like to read the ones that are of particular interest to me, more than one time. I was happy to see that the unique nugget found by Tom Reyes last May, is featured in the Minelab metal detector advertisement on page 35. I mentioned Tom in one of my articles in 2017. He is a top notch detectorist. It is good to see him get some recognition for his skill as a nugget hunter. While I am on the subject of nugget hunting, Santa (Mary and I) brought me a new metal detector for Christmas!! I thought that I had all the bases covered in the gold detecting department, but I just had to try this one! I won't get a chance to use it until late February or early March (Arizona ?) at best. Seriously, folks, this should be the last gold detector for quite a while. I really mean it this time!?!?! Until next time.....MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES, BE GOLDEN!!!

Questions or comments....call or text me 303-263- Joe Fortunato

From Secretary/Treasurer Wayne Schomaker

The January Meeting will feature a drawing for nine (9) gold nuggets of which the largest will be a 2.6 gram nugget. We are getting awfully close to giving away the 'Special Nugget' which will probably take place in February. So be sure to support your Club by buying as many nugget drawing and raffle tickets as you can afford. Remember, your odds of winning a nugget here are far better than your chances of winning the lottery.

2017 Ken Barker Award Winner

Jack Meineke has been a member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies since 2010. He is a veteran and a very experienced prospector. Jack usually spends his winters in Arizona where he searches steadily for gold. But when he returns, he spends a lot of time with the Club helping out with many of the outings, panning demos and Beginner Classes. Jack is a very hard worker and is always available to pitch in and help out wherever asked or if he feels he may be needed. Jack strongly believes in the Club and is always talking to people he meets and telling them about the Club and encouraging them to come and learn about prospecting. Jack is a very personable man and is a very experienced prospector and is always happy to share his knowledge and experience with anyone he meets. Jack Meineke has shown that he possesses the spirit and qualities that fit the qualifications for the Ken Barker Award and the Committee was proud to nominate him for consideration. The Club unanimously elected Jack as the 2017 recipient of this Award and he received it at the December Recognition Banquet. Congratulations Jack, you are truly deserving!!!



Planned 2018 GPR Meeting Programs:

January 17 Gold Trails video, episodes 9 and 10.

February 21 Kevin Single will be the speaker with 'Prospecting in SW Colorado.

March 21 Gold Trails video, episodes 11 and 12.

April 18 Gold Trails video, episodes 13 and 14.

Board Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2017 Meeting

X	James Long		Joe Shubert	X	Mike Hurtado	X	John Johnson II
X	Joe Fortunato	X	Joe Johnston	X	Chris Kafka	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Wayne Schomaker	X	Bobby Manning		Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

**There was no official Board Meeting for the month of December...!
The Board meetings will continue in January 2018.**

Question of the Month?

According to the Park County Historical Society – Resources, list of “COLORADO MINING FATALITIES 1884-1981.”

**On the fatality list, what is first miners name and how did he die. (He died on 1928 Mar 19).
HINT: The Historical Society link is somewhere in the Newsletter. Keep the link for future questions.**

2017 GPR Board of Directors Members

President
James Long
Vice President
Joe Fortunato
Secretary/Treasurer
Wayne Schomaker
2 Year Board Members
Joe Johnston (2016)
Joe Shubert (2015)
1 Year Board Members
Andy Doll
Mike Hurtado
Brandon Luchtenburg
John Johnson II
Bobby Manning
Chris Kafka
Past President
Garv Hawley

General Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2017

There was no regular meeting of the Gold Prospectors for tonight. The Program was a Pot Luck Dinner for the general membership followed by a Recognition Program.

The Dinner was opened at 6:30 pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members were then invited to enjoy the meal.

At 7:20pm, Pres. Long opened the Program with a round of applause in appreciation of Chris and Joe Kafka for their effort in decoration and preparing everything for the evening events. Pres. Long noted that there were 93 members in attendance for the Banquet.

Pres. Long then discussed the Club growth in 2017, which involved a paid membership of approx.. 175 total representing some 275 members. The membership remains fairly steady. The Club has been involved in sending Letters of Concern to a number of state and federal congressional representatives in support of Cache Creek, which is in danger of being taken over by the BLM with the intent to discontinue all forms of prospecting. Pres. Long continues to try to keep the Club abreast of local and state and national events that impact and effect mining directly and directly by reporting frequently in the Newsletter. And this will continue. The Club scheduled and held 18 events during the calendar year of 2017 to include 1 Tour, 5 Panning Demos, 1 Metal detecting Hunt, 6 Prospecting Outings, 2 Beginner Classes, the Club Picnic, and participation in the GPAA Foothills Chapter Gold and Treasure Show in Jefferson County.

Pres. Long then introduced the 2017 Board of Directors and invited them to stand for recognition. Each Board Member was then called to the podium and presented with a Certificate of appreciation and a small gift in recognition of all that they had done for the Club during the previous eleven months. Those recognized were Joe Fortunato, Wayne Schumacher, Mike Hurtado, Chris Kafka, John Johnson, Bobby Manning and Joe Johnston. Joe Shubert was ill and couldn't attend. Andy Doll was in San Diego, and Brandon Luchtenburg had to leave early due to a serious illness in the family.

Pres. Long then introduced several volunteers who also give up some of their time to help the Club to run smoothly. Recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation and a small gift were Dan and Becki

McConnell, who oversee the Membership Table, Joe and Chris Kafka who oversee the Refreshment Table, and Chuck Cown who assists with the ticket sales each meeting.

Pres. Long then announced the winners of the 2017 Finds of the Year. Each Member/winner was presented with a very nice Certificate of Achievement in recognition of their unique finds. The winners were: Best Coin to Joe Johnston, who found a 'coin drop' involving a number of coins in February 2017. Best Jewelry went to Joe Johnston for finding a sterling silver necklace with 6 animal fetishes on it that he found in January 2017. Best Artifact went to Ian Duncanson who found a very old unfired .50 cal shell casing in South Dakota in April of 2017. Best Mineral went to Susan Duncanson for a beautiful sample of 'Prairie Agate' she found in South Dakota in September 2017. Best Bottle went to Ian Duncanson with an old bottle he found in South Dakota in September 2017. Most Raw Gold went to Kevin Single for his find of .87 grams of gold he found in March 2017. We did not have a winner in the Largest Gold category for 2017 as no one entered any of the nuggets that I personally know were found. But hearty congratulations were given to all our winners for a job well done. There were many really neat finds over the course of the year but these were chosen by popular vote as the 'Best of the Best'.

Pres. Long then invited all those members who were participating in the 'Gold Elephant' exchange to swap out their gifts under the Christmas tree. At this time, several elves who were assisting Pres. Long handed out a small gift to each attendee of the Banquet. This small gift was an acknowledgement of appreciation of each members support, contribution, and participation in the Club, which makes the Club as strong as it is. We would not be able to accomplish any of what we do if it wasn't for the hearty support of the membership.

Pres. Long then conducted a drawing for twelve final gifts. Those winning a free Annual Membership were Charles Chase, Mike Stevens and Bob Johnston. Those receiving a gold nugget were Nancy Knerl, John Johnson and Yvonne Smith. Those receiving a one ounce silver prospector coin were Abel Espinosa, Bert Cutshall, and the daughter of Dennis Perederin. Those winning a handmade wooden decorative sluice box were Steve Barritt, Andrew Johnson and another member we failed to write down.

Pres. Long then announced the winner of the 2017 Ken Barker Award, which was presented to Jack Meineke. Jack received a frameable Certificate of Recognition along with a 100.00 bill and his picture will be included in the 'Ken Barker Award Gallery' on the Official Club Website. A copy of the written citation was also presented to Jack as a remembrance. Jack was chosen by a clear majority of the membership and is a very deserving recipient.

Pres. Long then announced that the centerpiece of each of the eleven tables which were handmade and decorated by Chris Kafka would be given to one of the attendees at each table and those people were to choose a recipient.

VP Fortunato then took the podium. He announced that the Board had gotten together to present Pres. Long with a little gift which turned out to be an old metal gold pan with a plaque attached thanking Pres. Long for his service. The gesture and pan was sincerely appreciated by Pres. Long and thanked everyone for their support.

Pres. Long then thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors of your Gold Prospectors of the Rockies, closed the Program wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We wish each member nothing but the best and may all of you find that glorious 'pot of gold' at the end of each of your personal rainbows and may the bottoms of all of your pans shine with that beautiful yellow gift from the stars that we call Gold!!!

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. See you all in 2018...!

Pres. Long receives Token of Appreciation

At the Christmas Banquet, the membership got together and VP Joe Fortunato presented Pres. Long with a small token of the Club's appreciation for the efforts Long has given the Club since his election as President in 2011. The gift was an old metal gold pan with a plaque attached to the center in appreciation for his service. Pres. Long was sincerely appreciative of the presentation and thanked all who had a hand in the matter. There have been many ups and downs in the last seven years of this Presidency and we have managed to get a lot of things done. The membership has grown dramatically and meeting attendance is also up dramatically. Gone are the days when we drew 30 people to the meetings and now we start at 75 and have reached 115 on occasion. Part of what makes a Club successful are the people willing to donate their time to get things done and Pres. Long commented that he was blessed with having good people around him to help accomplish those things.



Mining Concerns from Around the Country

(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is strictly my opinion, and that is that, like it or not.....jj)

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE:

PLF seeks relief from Endangered species abuses: The Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) has petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service in an attempt to force the agency to define the terms “species” and “subspecies”. The group cites the coastal California gnatcatcher as a prime example of agency abuse utilizing the Endangered Species Act.. In 1993, USFW listed the gnatcatcher, a bird, as a threatened species and subsequently designated 200,000 acres in Southern California as critical habitat. The Service claimed their listing and designation was based on a paper produced by Dr. Jonathan Atwood. Atwood refused to release his paper to the public, labelling it as ‘proprietary’, and the Service relied on his findings behind closed doors. A battle over the designation has been ongoing for the past 24 years. In November 2017, PLF attorneys filed a new complaint against USFW on behalf of a broad coalition of property rights, sound science, and home building industry advocates to force the agency to define species and sub species after the agency refused a petition to delist the gnatcatcher species based on DNA evidence. PLF is challenging the critical habitat designation and requested the species be delisted on the basis that the gnatcatcher is thriving in Baja California, and a study completed in 2013 on the gnatcatcher’s mitochondrial DNA showed that the Southern California population is not a distinct subspecies. Despite this evidence, USFW denied the delisting petition PLF filed in 2015, claiming the petitioners had not disproven the ‘subspecies’ status while refusing to articulate their definition of a ‘subspecies’. The complaints states, “The failure to use the best scientific data available in listing decisions engenders cynicism that listing decisions are a product of ideological and regulatory motives rather than the best available scientific data.” Forcing the agency to finally define ‘species’ and ‘subspecies’, could ultimately provide relief from Endangered Species Act abuses and critical habitat designations across the country.

Watch out for Split Estates when filing your Claims by Bryon Tolle

This article is based upon a true story, one in fact, that I am still in the midst of. Anyone who has filed a mining claim knows the purpose is to secure your ‘mineral rights’. Well, guess what? Your perfectly filed BLM mining claim could be worthless. Ever heard of a split estate? Probably one in 500 of us have. I hadn’t heard of a split estate until this year and I have filed numerous claims. This story is to encourage you to take a couple of extra steps before you send in your check and paperwork to the BLM. The way I had always filed a claim was to check my big map to confirm the section was in the pretty brown color showing it is public land administered by the BLM. Then I went to the BLM LR2000 website and looked up the township, range, and section, and confirmed there were no current claims on the property of interest. Finding the area available, I did my on-site field tests to confirm gold values and finally I filed all my claim paperwork, work the check and sent it off. Later on I received a BLM receipt and I was all happy and I made plans to go mining. That is what I used to do until I ran into a split estate property this year. Here is the problem, nothing from the start showed the section as anything different than any other open public lands I have made claims on. The color on the map was brown. LR2000 showed numerous past claims but no special limitations or notices were flagged for the property. Had I file the claim, the BLM would have accepted my claim paperwork and money and given me a receipt for it and none of it would have been valid. The only thing that saved me was talking to a local miner who gave me a ‘heads up’ that private individuals owned all the mineral rights in that section. A “split estate” is where one party owns the surface rights and another party owns the mineral rights. The federal government offered lands to the public to encourage them to migrate to the West as part of the Homestead Act that was passed in 1862. They gave the surface rights to the farmer or rancher and kept the mineral rights in these cases, creating a “split estate”. With decades of land exchanges between the BLM, ranchers and farmers involving private land and federal land, sections with split estates have become more common. In my case, the map indicated the public land was administered by the BLM (brown), but the mineral rights were already owned by previous owners prior to a land exchange. There are portions of the map labeled as private property (white), but the owner doesn’t own the mineral rights in some cases. So here are the steps that I suggest you do to protect yourself: 1) Go to www.blm.gov/services/land-records. Click on the MTP (Master Title Plats) link halfway down the page. 2) Click on Land Status Records near the bottom of the next page. 3) Enter your legal description like you would with LR2000. Any other involved parties *could* be displayed when you search using this method. I say *could* because this alone is still no guarantee. You still need to go to the assessor’s/recorder’s office. On my project, the search revealed private individuals, however, upon further research, I found that they didn’t actually own the mineral rights though they thought they did. A record search at the county offices proved that they didn’t. They had owned the land and traded with the BLM for another section but the guys who sold it to them previously had kept the mineral rights.*ouch..!!* Your next step is to head down to the assessor’s office and obtain any plat map information that you can before you head to the recorder’s office. Thankfully, the woman I spoke with at the assessor’s office was on her toes and she sent me over to the surveyor’s office who had some huge plat books where I was able to look up the property by legal description. Here I found several older listings of individual activities for that section. One challenge you might face is that the recorder’s office typically goes by names rather than legal titles. However, many counties have been putting records on their website and I have found that I could locate online information by just entering the legal descriptions. In my case, the problem was that these listings were more recent and I could only access records dating back into the 1990’s even though many of the land trades took place in the 1950’s and 1060’s. Please do not be discouraged by these additional steps, consider it a special opportunity to make contact with others who might be willing to lease their rights. If a private party owns the mineral rights and they are not under BLM control, then you do not need to file a claim, perform maintenance or pay annual fees. Now that is worth celebrating. In my particular case, after some major research and education, it looks like I might be re-connecting 26,000 acres of mineral rights to the rightful owners whose great grandfather bought them in the first place. That alone is a good feeling. I know they will be very appreciative, which may lead to an opportunity for me to lease the mineral rights!!

(The author is the dealer for the Neffco Centrifuge Bowl and a gold miner himself. He is the designer of the Black Gold Magnetic Separator and also does fine gold clean-ups, magnetic sands processing, field testing and consulting. For more information, go to americangoldminer.com or call (503)395-5117.)

(reprinted from the December 2017 issue of the ICMJ Mining Journal in the best interests of prospectors everywhere...JLL)

Mining: The Industry that made Colorado by Linda Wommack

By the spring of 1859, a two prong rush of mining frenzy brought thousands of prospectors to the West. While the miners from the played out California diggings rushed to the rich silver Comstock Lode in Nevada, an even bigger rush headed to the Rocky Mountains with the slogan of *Pikes Peak or Bust!* Although, nowhere near the famous Pikes Peak, gold had been discovered at the confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek, just west of today's downtown Denver. That same year further west into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, John H. Gregory, ironically a veteran (with some success) of the gold diggings at Sutter's Mill, Calif., discovered a large cache of gold at a place now called Gregory's Gulch. With the intention of finding old, placer miners, with their pans and sluice boxes, worked nearly side by side with the hard rock miners and their



drills. So much gold was mined from the area that it became known as the *Richest Square Mile on Earth*, and the major factor for the creation of the Colorado Territory in 1861. On either side of the gold strike, in that narrow gulch, the mining towns of Central City and Black Hawk sprang up. While Nathaniel P. Jill built the first successful smelter in the nation at Black Hawk, President U.S. Grant walked on bricks of gold in Central City. Gold had been discovered in small quantities in the high Rockies of California Gulch for years. William Stevens, a miner with



considerable experience, had battled with a heavy black soil. Curious, Stevens packed up a few soil samples from the bedrock and headed for the local assayer. Incredibly, the black sludge was discovered to be a carbonate of lead, the parent rock of silver. Stevens' samples assayed out at an incredible two and a half pounds of silver to the ton. In the very year Colorado became a state, 1876, a new rush to the Rocky Mountains was on. Before the year was out, more than \$100,000 worth of silver came out of the first developed mine in California Gulch. A new mining town was incorporated and would become legendary. They eventually called it Leadville. The mines of the Leadville area would produce more than 10,000 tons of silver, 100 tons of gold, and with technology over the years, nearly 2 million tons of zinc and more than 1 million tons of lead. It was silver that would make H.A.W. Tabor the richest man in the state, a lieutenant governor of the state, and the focal point of Colorado's most talked about love triangle in history. In 1879, a group of miners prospecting north of Leadville, along Fremont Pass, grappled with 'a strange greasy metal'. This metal would later be classified as molybdenum by the Colorado Geological Survey, and would be a great asset during both World Wars, and the industries to come after the wars, as a component to harden steel. During World War II, ore and rock materials were in high demand, and Colorado mines were a major supplier. Colorado's Yule Quarry, near the town of Marble on the Western Slope, supplied the marble for several buildings and statues. However, the quarry is best known for marble used to construct the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington D.C.. Colorado's richest gold bonanza occurred in a volcanic bowl on the south side of that beacon from the 1859 gold rush, Pikes Peak. On Oct. 20, 1890, Robert Miller "Bob" Womack discovered rich gold float in the waters of Cripple Creek. With the float assaying at \$250 to the ton, millionaires by the ore load were made with Cripple Creek gold. More than \$500 million worth of gold would be mined from the area. By 1893, the Cripple Creek Mining District forever became known as the *Greatest Gold Camp on Earth*. It was here that Winfield S. Stratton discovered his famous Independence Mine, one of the largest gold strikes in history. History was again made when he sold it of \$10 Million, the largest mine sale at the time. Even the lawyer who managed the transaction, Verner Z. Reed, pocketed a cool million for his efforts. It would be the last of Colorado's great gold boom years. However, mining is still a strong industry in Colorado. An astonishing discovery of diamonds occurred in Colorado in 1975. Yet, the largest diamond mine in Colorado, the Kelsey Lake Mine in Larimer County, opened its operation in 1996. Since then, it has produce3d diamonds as large as 26 carats. Colorado's coal mining industry is also quite strong, ranking 11th in the nation out of 30 coal producing states. The historic Cripple Creek Mining District today holds the only remaining major gold mine in the state. The Cripple Creek and Victor

Gold Mining Company has been a large gold producer since 1976, producing more than 22 million ounces (687.5 tons) of gold to date. The history of Colorado mining can be seen in many great museums across the state. It is quite fitting that the Western Museum of Mining and Industry is located at the base of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs. It is here that the last great Colorado gold rush began in Cripple Creek. Some of the oldest mining equipment in the state are featured, many in working order. Cripple Creek's mining history can be seen first-hand at the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine, which provides tours down the shaft and into the tunnels of the mine. The Cripple Creek Heritage Center offers interactive educational displays that explain everything from mining to early hotel dining in the turn of the century mining town. Central City and Black Hawk's mining history can be seen at the Gilpin County History Museum. While many exhibits change during the year, the mining history is the most comprehensive and detailed, including ore specimens from the nearby mines. Finally, the National Hall of Fame Mining Museum in Leadville provides dioramas of the area and the mine locations, several mining displays of historic relics from days when silver was king.

(Reprinted from 'The Colorado Gambler' published on January 30, 2012)

Park County Historical Society - Resources

The Park County Historical Society is an educational organization dedicated to promoting and preserving the history of all the various cultures of Colorado with an emphasis on Park County. In this regard, the Society maintains perpetual stewardship of the McGraw Memorial Park as an example of Park County.

(May need to copy and paste this link into your browser)

<https://parkcountyhistoricalsociety.snappages.site/resources>.

A Miner's Laugh

An old retired miner and his wife from North Dakota decided to vacation to Florida during the winter. They planned to stay at the very same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 50 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the old miner left North Dakota and flew to Florida on Thursday. His wife would fly down the following day. The old boy checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and without realizing his error, he sent the e-mail. Meanwhile.....somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister of many years who was called home to glory following a sudden heart attack. The widow decided to check her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:



To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I've Arrived

Date: 16 May 2003

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is not as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here!!!!

(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')

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Gold Prospectors of the Rockies
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7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page).....	\$48

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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)