

# THE GOLD NUGGET

October 2018

## Obituary

### Richard Duane Beesley

Richard Duane Beesley of Arvada, Colorado, passed away peacefully in hospice care at 1:56 am on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, four days short of his 73rd birthday. Rich succumbed to cancer after a valiant, two-year battle with the disease. Rich was a Christian and accepted the Lord as his savior. Rich Leaves behind his wife Pam Beesley, son Rick Beesley, and a brother Leon.

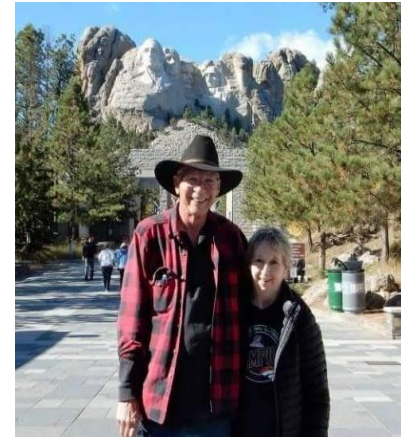
Rich was also a friend to many and those who knew him will no doubt miss his 6'4" tall frame, his generosity, his character, and his sense of humor. Rich had an opinion about everything and he wasn't shy about sharing it with anyone.

Rich was born in Denver but grew up in Downey, California with his parents until he joined the United States Navy. He served honorably aboard an aircraft carrier in the late 1960's, carrying on a tradition set forth by his father who served in the Navy during WW2.

Rich moved to Colorado after leaving the Navy where he began work as a grounds man at Crown Hill Cemetery. He soon left Crown Hill and went to work for the city of Arvada's street department, where he retired with 39 years of service as head of the department.

Rich was a family history buff, a fisherman, bottle digger, and a small-scale gold miner. He was a member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies and enjoyed mining with his many friends. One of his greatest prospecting moments was finding his first gold nugget in Nevada with his metal detector.

Rich was truly a unique individual, a character to say the least, a jokester, a prankster, and one of the most generous guys you'd ever meet. Rest in Peace, friend Richard, you will be missed.



## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



September has come and gone along with the changing of the colors. The creeks are running pretty low and the rivers are not too bad. But colder weather is knocking on our door. By the time you read this, we will have been out on our last prospecting outing for the year as a Club. Many of us will continue to prospect and dig for the winter months but many will opt not to venture out in the cold and sometimes icy waters. And that too, is okay. I have started my hunting seasons successfully with an antelope and deer and elk are in the immediate future. Life is good.

Hunting gives me an opportunity to visit areas that I only get to once a year or so. Part of hunting is having a keen eye for game and your surroundings. Such an eye can lead to pretty cool discoveries.

The areas that I hunt are known for minerals, fossils and other items of interest. During my recent antelope hunt, I found a 1921 Colorado license plate along with a circa 1932 glass bottle made by the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. in Columbus, Ohio. Then I found a rocky outcropping, which contained a huge number of fossils in a chalky white shale formation. Most of them were of small clam sized mollusks all one or two inches in diameter but still pretty cool stuff. The area where I hunt deer and elk holds tons of quartz and other rocks and stuff but you occasionally find arrowheads, larger sea shell fossils and a lot of agate. Some of the agate is really neat looking and quite large. I have found that it pays to keep your eyes open, as you never know what you will find while you are out and about. And, of course, I always watch for likely gold holding formations as well but I have learned from experience that there is very little gold in those areas. I do find the occasional copper sample, some iron ore but little else in the more precious realm. Occasionally, I find a little silver once in a while but not very good quality samples. But the deer and elk hunting has been good to me over the years. It is being on the lookout for the unexpected when you least expect anything is a good way to travel. I was building trail one time for the Colorado Trail folks off Monarch Pass when I stepped on a rock and looking down, discovered I was in a patch of small geodes. Some were broken open and some were unbroken, but they were geodes and I had fun collecting a bunch of them. Another trip with the same Colorado Trail folk up on Cannibal Plateau not too far from Lake City, I stumbled on an old Ute hunting camp site and the area was full of arrowheads and other artifacts. I had the huge



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misfortune of a member of the BLM along on that crew and he immediately demanded that I return the artifacts to the spots I found them and he declared the site an archeological site. The crew had to reroute the trail around that small clearing which caused us an entire lost day of work but we managed to get it done. And that is all I will say about that wink, wink...! To this day, I remember my brother and me stumbling into an old hard rock mine in the deep heart of the San Juan Mountains southwest of Creede, Colorado, on an elk hunt. The head frame was intact and a lot of the machinery was still present and it was as if the miners had left it just a couple of months before we found it. I wasn't into mining back then, but I wish I could get back into that country and find that old mine again. I want to spend some time on the tailings pile that was there, but I fear greatly that that opportunity is long lost as were hunting from horseback at the time and it was nearly 60 years ago. But a man can dream, can't he?

I look at the finds that some of our members turn in each month on the Finds Table and am always amazed at some of the stuff our members find when they too are out on the hunt and looking around for the expected as well as the unexpected. Some of that stuff is truly amazing. And it is disappointing that some of those federal agencies out there don't want us poking around and touching things. How else are we going to recover history? Far as I am concerned, they are just greedy and don't want to share anything with the common people. I am sure that most people would share some of their finds for placement in museums and such but those people just don't care and are not interested in anything but exercising their powers, whatever they may be.

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](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com). Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

## The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



Hello again fellow gold prospectors. I am having a difficult time getting started with this month's V.P. Corner article. As you know, we lost another friend and fellow prospector when Richard Beesley passed away on September 4. Rich was one of my prospecting and detecting buddies, so once again, this loss is of a more personal and painful nature for me. Sadly, Rich is the third friend and club member that I have lost in the past eighteen months. I am heading back to the Rye Patch, Nevada area on Oct. 16, that is, if the weather cooperates. I didn't make it to Nevada last spring, there was just too much rain, and the ground just never dried out enough to hear those deeper nuggets. I haven't been to Rye Patch since October of 2017, it has been a year, but that was a trip I will always remember. Rich Beesley and fellow GPOR member Dan Reid, joined me and my friend Ken Pitcher for a few days of chasing gold nuggets. Truthfully, the main purpose of this trip was to get Rich onto his first gold nugget with a metal detector. It was one of those "bucket list" things that he wanted to accomplish while he could. We were desperate to get Rich on a piece of gold, we had even discussed planting a nugget, then kind of steering him in the right direction without him knowing. This was not exactly how we wanted to make it happen, but if that were what it came down to, we would do it, and never tell anyone!! As luck would have it, Ken had been detecting in the area a few weeks earlier, and had found a nugget patch that produced a number of small nuggets. He had sent me a picture of his finds via text message at the time. Ken was sure that he had left a few small nuggets in that spot, and suggested we take Rich and Dan there. There are no guarantees when you are chasing gold with a metal detector, but in this case, the odds would be in our favor. The four of us met for breakfast at 6:30, then headed for the spot that Ken had found a few weeks earlier. Ken rode with me in my truck and Dan and Rich followed in Dan's vehicle. This particular spot is located on a WSPA Club claim, Ken and I are members so Rich and Dan could come along as our guests. This area is one of the more distant locations that we detect, so Ken and I had plenty of time to come up with a plan for when we arrived. The gold Ken had found was small and shallow. We decided the best plan would be to just remove a few inches of soil and spread it around using a hoe and a rake. Well, things worked out better than we could have hoped for. Ken gave Rich and Dan a few tips on how he had worked the spot and we headed back to my truck to get our gear. I don't think it had been ten minutes when I heard Rich's detector. I remember saying out loud, "that sounds good". It was good, and just that quick, Rich had his first nugget with his new detector. You always remember that first nugget, what a thrill it is!! They seem to get a little easier to find after you break the ice with that first nugget. There are times though, when I wonder if that is really true. It sure seemed to work for Rich that day. Within a few hours he had found four more small nuggets, entirely on his own. When they headed back to Denver a few days later, Rich had seven pieces of gold in



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his poke!!! Rich, I miss you buddy Until next time MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN!!!! Questions or comments...Call or Text me 303-263-7204.

## ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST, OCT 17 GPR MEETING.

First three places win a nice prize.

### From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Roger Schlenger



The October Meeting will feature a drawing for nine (9) gold nuggets of which the largest will be a 2.6 gram nugget. We also have a new 'Special Nugget' for give away, so be sure to purchase drawing tickets for it as well. 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.

### Planned 2018 GPR Meeting Programs:

Oct 17 David Emslie who will talk about his experience as a gold prospector.

Nov 21 TBD

Dec 19 Christmas potluck dinner and program.

### Board Meeting Minutes From Sept 2018

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

Quorum Present: Yes.

Call to Order by: Pres Long at 6:00 pm

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: none Approved as read/corrected: yes.

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

Correspondence: 2 phone calls, 14 e-mails, 3 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 152369 Hits for last 2 month 270.

Committee Reports: Discussed upcoming elections and the Barker Award Candidates.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

#### Planned Outings for 2018:

- Sept 29 Sat Prospecting Outing # 6, Lake Gulch, 9a
- Oct. 13 Sat Panning Demo Arap. Co. Fall Festival, 10a, see signup sheet.
- Oct. 17 Wed Mtg. Pumpkin Carving Contest, prizes to be awarded..
- Nov. 3 Sat Metal Detecting Hunt, Majestic View Park in Arvada, 10a.

#### From the Board:

- Pres. Long advised that the Club Picnic on Aug 20 was a good one.
- The Lake Gulch Outing of Aug 27 also went very well.
- The Panning assist for Georgetown Loop RR on Sept 1,2 was well attended as was the Highlands Ranch Festival of Sept 6,7,8. The Club was very busy for the last 7 weeks.
- Don Finley has sold his claim on Middle Boulder Creek.
- We discussed the passing of Richard Beasley.

#### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

On the GPR webpage, How many winners of the Ken Barker award are portrayed?

#### 2018 GPR Board of Directors Members

##### President

James Long

##### Vice President

Joe Fortunato

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Roger Schlenger

##### 2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2016)

Joe Shubert (2015)

##### 1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

##### Past President

Garv Hawley



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**Additional Announcements:** Next Board Meeting: Oct 17 at 6:00 pm. Next General Meeting: Oct. 17 at 7:00 pm.

**Tonight's general meeting program:** We will show a video on removing gold from black sand without chemicals

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:37 pm.

## General Meeting Minutes From Sept 2018

1. Meeting was opened at 7:02 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would feature a video on How to separate your gold from black sands without Mercury.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report: Gold 1203.70, Silver 14.23, Platinum 822.00, Palladium 1033.00 .Rhodium 2295.00
4. **Web hits** for last month were approx. 270.
5. **Treasurer Roger Schlenger** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We now have another 'Special Nugget' to raffle off so don't forget to buy these tickets as well. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.8 grams.
6. **Dan McConnell** reported from the Membership Table that we had 68 members in attendance. There were 4 guests present. The total meeting attendance was 72.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was **"On the GPR web site, under videos, who is the voice of the video 'So you want to become a prospector'??"**
8. **Pres. Long** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the '**Finds of the Month**' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2018. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely.
9. **John Johnson** announced the '**Cache Clue # 7**'.
10. **Pres. Long** advised that there was lots of items in the Club Store so stop and see **Mike Hurtado** for our latest deals and offers.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that:
  - The Club Picnic on 8-20 was well attended.
  - The Prospecting Outing on 8-27 at Lake Gulch had a real good turnout also.
  - We also had a good turnout at the Panning at Georgetown Loop RR event on Sept. 1,2.
  - The three day Panning Demo at Highlands Ranch Festival was also a great success.
  - The next Outings will involve another Outing up to Lake Gulch in Blackhawk on Sept. 29, a Panning Demo at Arap. Co. Festival on Oct. 13 at 10a.
  - The Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest at the Oct. Gen. Mtg.
  - The Annual Metal Detecting Hunt at Majestic View Park on Nov. 3.
  - We noted the passing of good member **Richard Beasley**.
  - Club Elections are coming soon and nominations for Officers will take place at the Oct. Mtg.
  - Members are reminded to use their GPS devices when accessing public locations in Kevin's Book as there have been a few incidents of folks getting onto the wrong property. We don't want to cause problems so always make sure of where you are at all times.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:28 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:41 pm.
13. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer was, **"Joe Fortunato"** !! There were 24 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:
  - **Best Coin** – **Joe Johnston** with a 1913 gold coin he found in a coin drop in Aurora.
  - **Best Jewelry** – **Dennis Perederin** with an old button he found while metal detecting in Denver.
  - **Best Mineral** – **Peggy Hazlett** with a specimen of Agate she found while rock hounding in Utah.
  - **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with an old Horseless Carriage ID tag he found while metal detecting in Denver.
  - **Best Bottle** – There was no entry for this category this month
  - **Most Raw Gold** – **Bobby Manning** with .789 grams of gold he found while prospecting in Gilpin County.
  - **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month



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15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, John Olson, Dick Oakes, and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. Pres. Long also wants to remind 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 shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Roger Schlenger**.
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 outside the meetings 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. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray costs. 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 **October Meeting Program** will be a presentation by **David Emslie** who will talk about his experience as a gold prospector in Colorado. 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'!
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## Finds of the Month 2018

The finds of the Month for Sept were as follows:

**Best Coin** – **Joe Johnston** with a 1913 gold coin he found in a coin drop in Aurora.

**Best Jewelry** – **Dennis Perederin** with an old button he found while metal detecting in Denver.

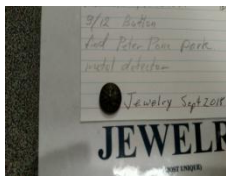
**Best Mineral** – **Peggy Hazlett** with a sample of Agate she found while rock hounding in Utah.

**Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with an old horse drawn carriage ID tag he found metal detecting in Denver.

**Best Bottle** – There was no entry for this item this month.

**Most Raw Gold** – **Bobby Manning** with .789 grams of gold he found in Gilpin County.

**Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this item this month.



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. We would all like to know what everyone else is finding out there so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their name published in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Monthly winners will need to save their finds to bring back to the November 2018 meeting to compete for the Find of the Year 2018. Thanks to all those who also submitted, additional finds that were not judged winners.

## A Miner's Laugh

An old miner was stopped by a Colorado State Trooper for speeding and when the trooper asked him his name, he replied "Fred". "Fred what?" the trooper asked. "Just Fred" said the miner. The trooper is in a good mood and thinks he might give the old boy a break with just a warning and presses him for his name. The old miner tells him that he used to have a last name but he lost it. The officer now starts to think maybe he has a nut case but plays along and says "Tell me Fred, just how did you lose your last name?" Fred says, "Well, it is a long story so stay with me. I was born Fred Johnson. I studied hard and got good grades and realized I wanted to be a doctor so I went to college and then medical school, my internship, then residency and finally got my degree and so I was Fred Johnson, MD. After a while, I got bored being a doctor so I went back to





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school to become a dentist. Then I was Fred Johnson, MD, DDS. Got bored doing that and started fooling around with my assistant and she gave me VD, so now I was Fred Johnson, MD, DDS, with VD. Well the ADA found out about the VD so they took away my DDS. Then I was Fred Johnson, MD with VD. Then the AMA found out about the ADA taking away my DDS because of the VD so they took away my MD leaving me as Fred Johnson with VD. Then the VD took away my Johnson, so now I am just Fred..!!” The Trooper walked away laughing so hard he was in tears. *(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us ‘old miners)*

## Labor Day Panning for Georgetown Loop RR

On September 1 and 2, the Club traveled up to Georgetown to help the RR folks to pan out the tourist bags of gold that they buy while taking the train and the mine tours. This two day event has sort of become a tradition with us to go up on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends to help them with this undertaking. The fun part is meeting people who have traveled here from all over the world literally, and to help them pan out their bags of sand and recover their little pieces of Colorado gold. It usually isn't that hard of work and you get to meet a lot of very interesting people. Most of them are truly excited to see the gold that they get to keep as a ‘special souvenir’ to remember the event and Colorado by. Many thanks to members **Carl Adams, John Brinkey, Joe and Chris Kafka, Jack Meineke, Angie Yen and Frank Zahn** for their volunteering to help **Pres. Long** to get all the work done. Pres. Long did get a few photos as well.



## Annual Highlands Ranch Festival Panning Demonstration

The Club traveled on September 6, 7, and 8 down to the Highlands Ranch Mansion at 9900 Ranch Road for their annual festival and performed gold panning demonstrations over the three day event. On Thursday and Friday, we entertained some 1800 elementary school children from the Douglas County School system. The majority of them were second, third and fourth grade students. The festival features such things as Indian dancers, a real Trapper, a Blacksmith, Hay Rides, a Petting Zoo, a Bee Keeper, a Chuck Wagon, and another dozen or more exhibitors to include the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies. Saturday is pretty much a family day for Highlands Ranch folks and other members of the public to just enjoy a day at the festival. The Highlands Ranch Mansion has been there since 1880 or so and has had a very interesting history. Many thanks to Club members **Carl Adams, Hank Innerfeld, Joe and Chris Kafka, Jack Meineke, Gordon and Yvonne Smith, Angie Yen and Frank Zahn** who all volunteered their time to assist **Pres. Long** in making the event a successful one for the Club.





## Monster 200 lb Gold Nugget Found in Australia

A miner from Australia has found a monster gold nugget that probably beats the Welcome Stranger nugget, which was previously thought to be the largest ever discovered. The nugget, found by driller Henry Dole, weighs 205 lbs (93 kilograms) and contains over 2300 troy ounces of gold and is estimated at about \$3 million dollars in value. And it should be mentioned that Henry's discovery did not end there. The gold was literally everywhere, he said. Right after finding the big one, he came across a second nugget that weighed 132 pounds worth an estimated \$2 million before finding even more gold. The discovery took place in the Beta Hunt mine near the town of Kambalda. The mine is a nickel and gold mine in western Australia. It is owned and operated by Canadian company RNC Minerals through a subsidiary named Salt Lake Mining Pty Ltd. Altogether, Henry's find is estimated at nearly \$10 million dollars. One mining engineer described the finds as exceedingly rare. People do still record finding nuggets in the goldfields, but typically they are less than several ounces, Prof Sam Spearing, director of the Western Australia School of Mines at Curtin University, said. Dole, who has more than 16 years of experience, said he never witnessed anything like this in his entire career. "As I was drilling it, you could see the gold shavings coming out of all the holes and I thought 'there's something here,'" he told the Daily Mail. "And then after we fired it and I came in the next day and washed it all down, it was just everywhere." RNC Minerals' chief executive, Mark Selby, said the finding was a "once-in-a-lifetime" moment. He added the largest rocks would go to auction as collector items. "It's generally an exciting moment and given it's been a tough slug for us at the mine, to make this kind of discovery just reinforces that we always knew this mine had potential," Selby said. "We're going into a sales process to put it into ands to raise the capital to do this exploration, to find these areas we know are there, and hopefully retain some equity interest... But this discovery shows Beta Hunt has the potential to be a very large gold mine going forward." The latest discovery knocked down the title of world's largest gold nugget given to "Welcome Stranger" — found in February 1869 in central Victoria. Cornish miner John Deason, who was working in Bulldog Gully, near Moliagul found the gold nugget weighing 146 pounds.



## Final Prospecting Outing of 2018 Year

The Club held the final Outing of 2018 up in Lake Gulch. We had a good turnout of the usual suspects who all went to work diligently to extract all the good yaller gold they could find. The weather was excellent again and a lot of digging got done. After lunch, we retired to lower Clear Creek Canyon and set up the high bankers to run everyone's material. We processed well over 130 buckets of material in a matter of 2 and a half hours and gave everyone their concentrates. It was a group effort and showed how much a group working together can get done in a short amount of time. Pres. Long ran a test pan for each member and was able to confirm that everyone had been successful in finding some Gold. This final run of the year was very good indeed. At least one small nugget was found and a number of larger pickers were noted and the gold showed some good coarse as well as plenty of fines. It was a good day to dig for gold.





## **The Cache La Poudre Lost Gold Mine**

Hans the Dutchman and Mike the Irishman, were bosom buddies who came in 1860 to the military fort of Fort Collins, then the middle of a wilderness that was Kansas Territory. Loaded with gold, they stayed at the fort just long enough for a good spree, then vanished across the wide gray prairie in the direction of the Shining Mountains, shadowy purple against the western sky.

Had this happened but once, the soldiers at the fort would have paid little attention. But it happened time and again. Always the two buddies arrived loaded with gold, had themselves a spree, sobered up and disappeared. No matter how drunk they were, they never revealed where they came from, nor where they went. The curious soldiers, awed by all the gold, tried their best to find out. Finally, they hired a celebrated Indian scout to follow Hans and Mike. He kept them in sight for three days, and then took off after a deer, sure that he could pick up the trail again in a few hours. But a snow storm covered the trail, and all the Indian scout could report was that the two men went straight up the Cache La Poudre River.

The next time the Dutchman and the Irishman came back, they brought a donkey so that they could pack in bigger supplies and pack out more gold. Soon the load was too heavy for the donkey, so they traded it for an ox. Even the ox was over-burdened with the heavy load of gold ore the two miners brought in.

Then, to the soldiers' surprise, the prospectors came tramping wearily on foot, carrying their gold on their backs and mourning their ox, who had been killed by a bear right outside their cabin door. That time they drank more than usual, began to quarrel, and suddenly the Irishman landed a blow on Hans' head that killed him. Now, the soldiers exulted, they would find out about that mine. They seized Mike and told him they would hang him unless he told them where his mine was. Mike glared defiantly, bearded jaws locked up tight. Even when the soldiers put a rope around his neck and led him to a cottonwood tree, he only gritted his teeth harder and glared more fiercely. The soldiers, planning only to give him a good scare, threw the rope over a limb and pulled him up in the air for half a minute. When they let him back down, he was dead. What with the long trek from the hills, the drunken spree, and the fight with his buddy, Mike needed only a little bit of strangulation to stop his heart. With both men now dead, the mine would be lost forever.

But prospectors kept looking, without finding a trace of cabin or mine until Billy Meline came to Fort Collins from Nebraska in 1899, getting a job in a local saw mill. He often visited Manhattan, a small mining camp some thirty miles west. Here, he heard talk about the lost mine of Mike and Hans. He could not stop dreaming of what he had heard and he determined to find that mine and become the richest man in all of Nebraska. Just about that time, a little boy became lost in the mountains and everybody in town went to look for him, searching all night. IN the morning the boy rode back by himself, surprised at all the commotion he had caused saying that he had spent the night at a cabin up the gulch. He had built a fire in the fireplace, found some canned beans to eat and, best of all, he had found some rocks with pretty gold specks in them lying on the table. He brought back with him some bleached bones, bear bones he thought, that he had found right outside the cabin door. Billy Meline was almost out of his mind with excitement. It was clear to him that the boy had stumbled onto the lost cabin of Mike and Hans. Nobody else seemed interested as they all had more to do than look for needle in a haystack. Billy was all set to venture forth himself when Amos, an eighty year old prospector, offered to go along. A friend warned Billy that old Amos got crazy spells from time to time as he had gotten into a fight with a bear years ago and often got overly excited whenever he saw a wild animal and would then go berserk. But Billy thought that he could handle the old man so they started out. They had no trouble finding the cabin the boy had discovered. A faint trail led from the cabin and suddenly they found the black mouth of a tunnel in the side of the mountain. The old man yelled with excitement and rushed in without waiting to light his candle. He suddenly came out again just as fast with a mama bear and her two cubs in hot pursuit. The old man promptly went berserk. Even though the bear ran off into the forest with here cubs, the old man grabbed up his rifle and pointed it at Billy. "I've got to kill you to leave something for the bears to eat while I run away", he shouted at Billy, and as his shaking finger tightened on the trigger, Billy lunged at the old man and caught him around the knees. The rifle discharged into the air. It took all Bill's strength to get the old man corralled and haul him into town. In so doing, he had sprained his ankle causing him a delay into getting back to the cabin for several weeks. But he wasn't worried, he knew exactly where it was located, on the north slope of Black Mountain, near the top in heavy timber. It would not be hard to locate again. But when he went, he looked and looked and looked, for years, and he could never find it again. He got to believing that it had all been just a dream, a crazy dream





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with a crazy old man prospector, and the cabin only a ghost cabin. Sometimes he thought he could hear Mike and Hans laughing at him. Just another Colorado gold mine, but this one has the bones of an ox near the front door.

*(Reprinted from Colorado's Lost Gold Mines and Buried Treasures by Caroline Bancroft, and also told by George Jarvis Bancroft in the Rocky Mountain News, 1914)*

## TYMKOVICH MEATS



Established 1952  
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Washington St,  
Denver, CO 80229  
(303) 288-8655  
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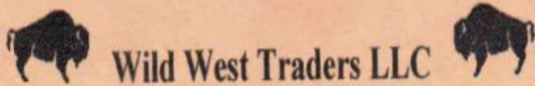
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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Nov 2018**

(**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 GPR Metal Detecting Outing
4 Daylight Saving Ends	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22 Thanksgiving	23	24 WMMI Assay Seminar
25	26	27	28	29	30	