

# THE GOLD NUGGET

Feb 2020

**2020 Member Dues are now due...pay by mail or cash, card or check at the Feb meeting.** (Mail address on last page of the newsletter)

## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



*I remember following my dad when I was a little guy as he chased around the Creede and Lake City mountains in search of uranium with several of his then buddies. It was my first experience with prospecting. And he found uranium, along with silver and some other stuff. But I didn't get the bug back then in the early 1950's. None of what he found was more exciting to me back then than my friends and later, sports and girls, at that time. But I finally caught the 'Fever' when I began watching George 'The Buzzard' Massey on TV with his 'Gold Fever' show. This was back around the early to mid-1980's which led me to join the GPAA back around 1988. I had the 'Fever' good by then. So, when I came across this little gem the other day, I thought I would share it with all of you as it speaks volumes....JJ*

### **GOLD FEVER!!!**

By Buzzard

(From the Jan. 1980 issue of the GPAA magazine)

Every year about this time, when prospectors gather around a campfire after a season of mining, or when the old guys sit around Stanton, Arizona, you hear stories about gold fever. Most of the stories improve with each telling, but what's even more interesting is that new stories keep coming up. Science has tried and failed many times in attempts to define gold fever. It is catching, but not contagious, frightening, but not dangerous, at least sometimes, anyway. Usually it is the neophyte who is smitten, although it is not uncommon for veterans to come down with severe attacks. To my knowledge, no one has ever died of gold fever itself, but I know a few guys who at the time of attack wished that they were dead, so great is the humiliation after recovery. Did I hear some budding prospector out there say, "What the hell is gold fever?" Well son, it is a combination of heart attack, nervous breakdown, ninth inning collapse and cold feet all rolled up in one miserable ball that hangs up in your gullet, putting pressure on your brain, which in turn results in irrational acts. A home run hitter who watches the perfect pitch come over the plate with the bases loaded and his team needing only one lousy run and just stands there and watches the ball zip past him instead of slamming it out somewhere past the city limits. That's gold fever, like Robert Service said, "There's gold and it's haunting and haunting. Driving me on as of old, but it's not the gold that I'm wanting, so much as just finding the gold," or, "The little voices, the damn little voices always calling.!" Gold Fever is difficult to predict by other than its distinct unpredictability. Like the sourdough who worked a large boulder out of the middle of the river, his buddies had watched as he masterfully worked his dredge and cleaned out his concentrates to uncover a 6-penny weight nugget. However, they were not prepared for what happened next! Having found the nugget, the prospector emitted a Tarzan like yell that rang up and down the Cascade Mountains. The stories are endless. A close personal friend, who would shoot me if I mentioned his name, once found a fine one-ounce nugget in Oregon and was so excited about it that he leaped into the car with the nugget in his pocket and drove 160 miles to home. He had completely forgotten about the four other fellows who had been with him. Prospecting stirs, a primal instinct in man that probably shows the behavioral pattern of our Stone Age ancestors. It would be a good bet that some excited cave man, after finding some big nugget, directly made a fool of himself, about the same way that we do today. I have a feeling that gold fever has been around for a long time. I do know one thing. I can get goose bumps just looking at my gold dredge or cleaning my old gold pans. And I am not about to tell about the big nugget I found in the Feather River and in my own excitement and whooping, accidentally threw it back into the damn river!!!

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. It is the end of January as I write this month’s article. We have had some temperature swings in the last month but no snow here in town. We have certainly had some days that are more than adequate for some digging in the creek or detecting at a park or playground. As I mentioned in last month, those cold days are always a great time to do some research and add to your “skill sets”. I was doing some reading on one of those cold days recently, and came across something that is a key factor for folks like us. It is from “Fists Full of Gold” by Chris Ralph, this is good advice for all of us.” Exploration sampling and prospecting can be the most difficult part of an operation for small operators and individuals, but done correctly, it will have the most rewarding results. Until you find the pay streak, you are uncertain as to what you might find, whether the property you are testing will work out, and if you will be able to find the gold if it’s there. All these uncertainties can be tough on the prospector mentally. Don’t let those uncertainties and doubts play with your head. If you stick to good procedures and use what you know and the experience you have, you will eventually get into good gold. Remember that when you are sampling to find a deposit, you gotta follow that gold! The gold in your sluice box or pan never lies - it tells you exactly where the pay streak is. You don’t want to spend any more time digging barren material than absolutely necessary. A bad sample has still useful information - what is it telling you? It tells you where the gold isn’t! I always do better when I stop and think about things a bit. I ponder what I am doing, what the material is telling me, what the amounts of gold I am finding is telling me, where the pay streak is seeming to go, where the source of the gold is located, bends in the stream, changes in grade, etc.” “Back at the end of the chapter on metal detecting, I started to get into a discussion about keeping a positive attitude and not giving up. I also noted that this was true for pretty much all types of prospecting. The problem is that long term, ongoing success in prospecting for gold is never easy. I often tell folks that if finding gold were easy, gold would not be so valuable! Successful prospecting and finding nuggets truly requires keeping a positive focus and putting in the necessary time to explore. This is equally true for all types of prospecting. In fact, having the right attitude is so important that I decided to spend a whole chapter in this book about the related topics of keeping your confidence, persevering, being dedicated and not allowing yourself to get discouraged.” Until next time **MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN !!!!!** Questions or Comments Call or Text me 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato.

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The February Meeting will feature a nine (9)-nugget giveaway that will include a 2.6-gram nugget. Be sure and buy your red tickets for that drawing as well as your blue tickets for the one half ounce Australian **Special Nugget drawing. We are going to give away the ‘Special Nugget’ this month.** The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time, which I have at my desk in the back. Hope to see you all there at the meeting..!!

## Board Meeting Minutes From Jan 2020

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

Quorum Present: Yes.

Call to Order by: Pres Long at 6:01 pm .

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

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

Correspondence: 5 phone calls, 16 e-mails, 7 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 155932 Hits for last 2 month 465 – 233.

Committee Reports: All committee assignments to remain the same for 2020.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Most of us probably know the melting point of gold (1948 degrees F), but what is its boiling point in Fahrenheit?



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

**Unfinished Business:** Pres. Long and BM Manning will attend an Award breakfast/ceremony at JeffCo for Opens Spaces Volunteers on Jan 30 at 7:30am.

**New Business:** Facility rental has gone up to \$155.42 from \$127.50. Pres Long signed the contract.

**Planned Outings for 2020:** Outing Schedule is being prepared by Pres. Long.

### From the Board:

- Pres:Long discussed the Xmas Pot Luck which went very well. Major kudos to BM C. Kafka for all the table decorations and preparations.
- Gold prices have been moving steadily up into mid 1500's and may be going higher.
- The 2020 Club Agenda will remain pretty well same as 2019.
- Pres. Long advised that the total Club profit for 2019 was exactly 71.46, proving that the Club meets it's 'non-profit' status.

**Additional Announcements:** Next Board Meeting: Feb. 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Next General Meeting: Feb. 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

**Tonight's general meeting program:** We will be having a video presentation on the Gold Rush of Summit County by Kevin Singel.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:46 pm.

### 2020 GPR Board of Directors Members

#### President

James 'JJ' Long

#### Vice President

Joe Fortunato

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

#### 2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2017)

Joe Shubert (2018)

#### 1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson II

Bobby Manning

Chris Kafka

Mike Stevens

#### Past President

Gary Hawley

## General Meeting Minutes From Jan 2020

1. Meeting was **opened at 7:05 pm** by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would be a presentation by Kevin Singel on The Gold Rush of Summit county. This turned out to be another excellent presentation by Kevin and was warmly received.
3. **The Metals Report** is as follows: Gold 1556.00, Silver 17.97, Platinum 1019.00, Palladium 2220.00, and Rhodium 7400.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month was 233.
5. **Treasurer Joe Kafka** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We will be giving away the 'Special Nugget' at the February Meeting so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a beautiful specimen from Australia. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for tonight's nine nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.4 grams.
6. **Dan McConnell** reported from the **Membership Table** that we had 71 members in attendance. There were five guests present. The total meeting attendance was 74.
7. The '**Question of the Month**', is...**"What is the deepest gold mine in existence today???"** The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later.
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, 2020. 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. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. **John Olson** announced the **"Cache Clue" #1**.
10. **Pres. Long** advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We always have a supply of gold bags for sale as well. They are one of the best in town for the price! There are also items of **mining equipment** for sale in the back of the room so take a look at them during the break!
11. **The Outings Schedule** for 2020 is in the process of being developed. We will hopefully have it done by February.
12. **Pres. Long** advised that:
  - The **Xmas Pot Luck** went very well and major kudos to **Chris Kafka** for her decorations.
  - Gold prices have been inching up over the last month or two and is expected to hit 2000 again by next year.
  - Pres. Long reminded everyone to check pamphlets at the front desk during the break and to vote for the finds of the month, return any items checked out from the Club Library.
  - Pres. Long again asked for volunteers to take over the Registration Table.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

- There is a new Show on the Discovery Channel titled 'Reclamation' which features a couple of our members. The Show airs on Thursday nights at 7pm for the next 7 or 8 weeks, so be sure to watch.
  - Pres. Long and BM B. Manning will attend a breakfast Award Ceremony at JeffCo for the Open Spaces folks on Jan. 30 at 7:30am.
13. The break was then announced at 8:15 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:35 pm.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was, "...'**The M[poneng Gold Mine in South Africa which descends 2.5 miles into the earth and takes the miners over an hour to go from the surface to the bottom!!** There were 34 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
15. The winners for the '**Finds of the Month**' were then announced. They were:
- **Best Coin** – There was no entry for this category this month.
  - **Best Jewelry** – **Dennis Perederin** with a silver ring with cross he found while metal detecting in Denver, Colorado.
  - **Best Mineral** – **Dennis Perederin** with a crystal he found on a sidewalk in Denver, Colorado.
  - **Best Artifact** – **Joe Johnston** with a wooden truck he found in Eaton, Colorado.
  - **Best Bottle** – There was no entry for this category this month.
  - **Most Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month.
  - **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month.

\*\*\*\*\*Winners will now need to save their items for the Find of the Year to be held in November 2020.\*\*\*\*\*

16. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Kevin Singel, Gordon Smith and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 14 door prizes and 9 gold nuggets. Pres. Long also wants to remind everyone 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 **Joe Kafka and Brandon Luchtenburg**.
17. **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.
18. **Many Thanks go to Greg and Nancy Knerl** 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.
19. **The February Meeting Program** will be announced at the next meeting. 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 8:56 pm.

## A Miner's Laugh

A fellow was being sold a very cheap suit. "But the left arm is a lot longer than the right arm," he complained.

"That's why the suit is such a bargain," the sales clerk explained. "Just cock your left shoulder up a little, like this, and tuck this left lapel under your chin a bit, like this."

"But the right leg is way too short," argued the customer.

"No problem," the sales clerk answered. "Just keep your right knee bent a little at all times, walk like this, and no one will notice. That's why this suit is only \$30."

Finally, the fellow bought the suit, cocked his left shoulder into the air, tucked the suit's left lapel under his chin, bent his right knee, and limped out of the store toward his car. Two old miners happened along at that moment and noticed him.

"Good heavens," the first miner said to the second, "look at that poor crippled fellow."

"Yeah," answered the second old miner. "But doesn't that suit fit and look great great?"

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





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

### **The finds of the Month Jan 2020:**

Be sure to bring your finds of the month that you have collected since the November meeting. The judging will start anew for the year 2020 and the November Finds are included in the 2020 contest.

- **Best Coin** – There was no entry for this category this month.
- **Best Jewelry** – **Dennis Perederin** with a silver ring with cross he found while metal detecting in Denver, Colorado.
- **Best Mineral** – **Dennis Perederin** with a crystal he found on a sidewalk in Denver, Colorado.
- **Best Artifact** – **Joe Johnston** with a wooden truck he found in Eaton, Colorado.
- **Best Bottle** – There was no entry for this category this month.
- **Most Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month.



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the membership each month. We would like to know what everyone else is finding so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their names published in the Newsletter. There are seven (7) categories to choose from when entering. Winners of the monthly judging will need to save and return with their winning find next November 2020, when the Finds of the Year will be judged. **DON'T FORGET SAVE THEM** for Find of the Year 2020!!!!

### **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 every month or so 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....j*

#### **Exposing U.S. Supply Chains to Risk** The National Mining Association | [nma.org](http://nma.org)

**Land Withdrawals:** New mining operations are already either restricted or banned on more than half of all federally owned public lands. Federal lands account for as much as 86 percent of the land area in certain Western states and these same states account for 75 percent of our nation's metals production.

The U.S. is entirely import dependent for 20 key mineral resources, and more than 50 percent import dependent for an additional 30 mineral commodities – even though we have significant deposits of some of these minerals within our borders.

**A History of Overreach:** In recent years, large-scale mineral withdrawals under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) have been abused in terms of need and scope. FLPMA requires congressional approval if mining activities are to be curtailed by large-scale withdrawals. Specifically, mineral withdrawals of more than 5,000 acres are subject to congressional approval. Yet, in 2015, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) proposed to withdraw up to 10 million acres of land from new mining operations to protect the sage grouse– a bird that was not endangered, whose habitat has been improved by mining conservation agreements and habitat restoration efforts.

DOI's 2017 cancellation of the withdrawal was a welcome return to fact-based policymaking.

**America the...unnecessary importer?** Our import dependence for key mineral commodities has doubled over the past two decades. Removing large swaths of additional mineral-rich lands from development will further increase our import dependence. Less than half of the mineral needs of U.S. manufacturing are met from domestically mined resources. As a result, key domestic industries are left unnecessarily vulnerable to disruptions from extended, complex and fragile supply chains.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

**Muddying Existing Clean Water Regulation:** ,The National Mining Association | nma.org

### **WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS)**

Both the U.S. Constitution and the Clean Water Act place limits on federal authority over waters, and Congress has declined to alter the careful balance struck between federal and state water regulation.

The Clean Water Act was intended to provide both vital environmental protections for our nation's waterways, and the regulatory certainty necessary for investment and a thriving economy. By muddying the application of federal regulations, the 2015 WOTUS rulemaking put both key interests at risk.

The 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule attempted to unlawfully expand the scope of federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

- **The rule created confusion.** Contrary to the stated purpose of the rulemaking, the rule failed to provide much needed clarity as to which waters are federally regulated. Rather than provide clear delineations between state and federal waterways, the rule provided federal regulators with expanded authority to regulate marginal waters while calling into question the status of areas never before subject to federal jurisdiction. The result: increased confusion that would have led to additional costs, delays and financial risks for nearly every sector of the economy, including the mining industry.

- **The rule inhibited economic growth.** By federalizing the nation's waters on both public and private lands, the rule would also have had a dramatic impact on job creation and economic investment and growth. Many new projects would have become cost-prohibitive, and existing lawful operations would have been subjected to increased permitting requirements, delays, undue litigation threats and even potential closures.

In 2017, the Environmental Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) wisely proposed repealing the rule, taking steps to address a deeply problematic regulation that completely ignored the balance between federal and state water regulation, as well as constitutional limits on authority. The EPA and Corps began 2018 by delaying by two years, the applicability of the 2015 rule while they considered possible revisions or a replacement.

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund Abuse by US Forest Service:**

A review by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the US Forest Service ignored federal restrictions to acquire many thousands of acres of new federal lands. The federal Land and Water Conservation fund includes provisions that limit the amount of land the Forest Service can acquire in Western States to "not more than 15 percent" of purchases. However, the GAO report found that the USFS added 124,000 acres, with 76% of those lands out west, from 2014 through 2018. Though Senator Lisa Murkowski R-Alaska, chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, called for greater oversight to avoid this problem in the future, she failed to call upon the agency to dispose of lands that were above the legal threshold.

### **US Army asks for REE Proposals:**

The US Army announced plans to fund the construction of rare earth processing facilities. It is the first time taxpayer funds will be used for the production of rare earths since the Manhattan Project, which was undertaken to create the first atomic bomb during WWII. The stated goals are to reduce the reliance on China for rare earth minerals essential for advanced weapons and technology. The Army announcement asked for proposals for a pilot plant and agreed to cover up to two thirds of the cost of a new processing facility.

### **Two Executive Orders to Reign in Federal Agencies:**

Agency guidance documents, letters, handbooks and publications have convoluted the regulatory picture for decades. The USFS, EPA, Army CoE, BLM and other federal agencies have utilized these informal methods to create or alter rules and regulations without congressional oversight. A glaring example was the Army Corps of Engineers 2016 decision that defined permafrost, which encompasses one third of the State of Alaska, as 'navigable waters' following a new definition of waters established by the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) issued by the Obama Administration. This halted the expansion of family owned pipe fabrication businesses in Fairbanks. The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals (who else) deferred to the agency for their interpretation of the rules and the US Supreme Court declined to hear the case. A Wyoming rancher was facing a \$16 million dollar fine from the EPA for building a stock watering pond on his property without a permit. This case was settled out of court with no fine after a major public outcry. The Trump Administration had to rescind the Obama era WOTUS definition in order to restore a sense of order and prevent agency overreach. The final rule rescinding the 2015 definition was published in the Federal Registry on October 22, 2019. On October 9, 2019, President Trump took another step toward regulatory certainty by signing two executive orders. The 'Transparency and Fairness' order requires agencies to proactively educate the public about any proposed changes before any fines can be



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

imposed. Agencies are also required to place regulations on their websites in a searchable and concise format and, 'Anything that is not put up there is rescinded' according to Russ Vought, acting director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. The 'Bringing Guidance Out of the Darkness' order forces federal agencies to conduct a cost benefit analysis and requires public comment when any agency intends to adopt a regulation.

### **Petition for Joshua Tree as a Threatened Species:**

Wild Earth Guardians tried to get the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Joshua tree as a threatened species. The effort failed when the agency announced in August that there was 'no major contraction in populations' over the past 40 years and the two species of Joshua trees are still occupying their historic, 12 million acre range in California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. Now Wild Earth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity are petitioning the California Fish and Game Commission to list the Joshua tree as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. Based on past experience, it is expected that California will act to support the listing regardless of fact and/or science, as they have in the past, and this will place additional restrictions for miners, ranchers and private property owners on state lands. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has three months to make a recommendation to California Fish and Game, with a vote on the issue expected early in 2020. *(And this, ladies and gentlemen, is ow the tail wags the dog. These deep pocketed liberal idiots are direct blood relatives of the idiots here in Colorado who think wolves belong here.....JJ)*

## **NEWS YOU CAN'T USE – HISTORY YOU CAN'T USE**

by Buzzard

Reprinted from the 1989 GPAA Gold Nugget magazine

Many people forget to remember that Texas invented enchiladas, which are toasted tortillas and chili powder with gravy, folded around a mixture of grated cheese and onions. Most people feel that enchiladas came from Mexico, but they didn't. However, tortillas did and they are truly Mexican. Tacos are another Mexican dish. They too, consist of tasted tortillas with the addition of met, lettuce and tomato. Guacamole salad, which is popular in California today, was another Texas original dish, made with mashed avocados, grated onions, salt and other seasonings. With lettuce, it is a delicacy to delight the palate of the fastidious gold miner. Mexico, however, gets the credit for tamales which are made by wrapping any kind of chopped or ground meat in a cover of corn meal, then wrapping the whole thing in a corn shuck. Frijoles is the Mexican word for beans and there is a strong reference that you will get them prepared the Mexican way when you see them listed on a menu that way. Mexicans almost invariably fry their beans, whereas frijoles served in Texas are usually always boiled, but they are big red beans which the Mexicans seem to prefer. We still call them frijoles today up on the Cripple River in Alaska, but they almost always come boiled. Another item as I was reading through a magazine the other day, I came up with some information on gold and silver for toys. The first grist mill at Bishop, California, was started by A.A. Cashbau, who came out that way in a Prairie Schooner from Zanesville, Ohio, and who decided that food was as important, or more so, than gold. While working Indians to build his mill race, he kept a crowbar in evidence to keep them from talking. He figured if they could not talk, they could not plot against him. He hauled corn by oxen from all over the Owens Valley, raised vegetables, and took crops over to Bodie, Candelara and Aurora. They paid him well with silver and gold. His little daughter, Kate, played with the silver and gold bars for toys. His son, William Cashbau, of Bishop, Owens Valley, recalls seeing his mother dig up a can of buried treasure and taking out 2,000 ounces of gold to pay for a piece of property. She was a passenger on the very first N.P. and S. P. train when they drove the Golden Spike in Carson City, that being her destination. We agree with Mr. Cashbau, things and times have sure changed.

## **FORGOTEN SHORT STORIES OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH**

### **You Couldn't Pack Light**

The Gold Rush began in 1896 with the discovery of gold in Canada's largely uncharted Yukon territory. Word traveled fast, and within a year the northern reaches of Canada were swamped with people seeking their fortunes.

That caused a serious problem. People needed supplies to survive, and they needed a lot of supplies to survive the rocky, cold, hard trek in the North. Unfortunately, there was a distinct lack of grocery stores along the way. That meant that the small towns along the way were in danger of being overrun and being depleted of food.





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

The Canadian government enacted a provision that every American crossing the border for gold mining needed to bring their own supplies with them, and they needed to have enough to last them an entire year. That meant that a trip to the Yukon wasn't just one-way—in some cases, people covered more than 1,610 kilometers (1,000 mi) back and forth between Alaska's starting point of Dyea to their campsite at Bennett Lake. The two spots were only 53 kilometers (33 mi) apart, but a year's worth of supplies was heavy and required way more than just one or two trips with a backpack.

The Northern Pacific Railroad put out a brochure with recommended provisions: 181 kilograms (400 lb) of flour, 4.5 kilograms (10 lb) of both coffee and tea, 34 kilograms (75 lb) of dried fruits, 56 kilograms (125 lb) of beans, and non-food supplies like tents, oil blankets, mosquito netting, axes, pitch, a stove, 60 meters (200 ft.) of rope, and enough winter clothing to survive months of brutal temperatures.



### Klondike Kate

Not all people headed to the Yukon to seek their fortunes were planning on doing any prospecting. Kathleen Rockwell was born somewhere in the Midwest United States, although she was always pretty vague as to where. A dancer by trade, she started out in chorus lines and on the vaudeville stage, but the amount of money that could be made off of miners and prospectors was impossible to pass up.

She found her place in the Savoy in Dawson, Yukon, where she took the stage name "Klondike Kate" and became famous for both her renowned "Flame Dance" and her daring pink tights. She was so popular that she was soon earning gratuities, tips, and a portion of the profits—according to Kate, she made more than \$30,000 in her first year

onstage. That's a good amount of money even today—in the 1890s, it would have been simply staggering.

Kate was so popular with the miners, in fact, that they would hand her gold nuggets just for stopping to speak with them on the street. Sadly, her personal life wasn't as happy, and it took a turn for the worse when she met and fell in love with a man named Alex Pantages. He moved to Seattle with a promise to bring her with him so they could marry—instead, she found out he went on to marry someone else. She ultimately married twice, and she died in 1957 after writing her life story and trying to debunk the idea that she was a gold digger.

## 4-pound gold bar found decades ago identified as stolen Aztec treasure

By Chris Ciaccia | Fox News      Aztec treasure discovered at Mexico City construction site

There wasn't much known about a 4-pound gold bar discovered during construction work in Mexico City nearly 40 years ago, but now experts are calling the precious metal an Aztec relic. The gold bar has been identified as a long-lost Aztec treasure that was stolen by Spanish conquistadors nearly 500 years ago.

A 4-pound gold bar that was discovered during construction work in Mexico City nearly 40 years ago has been identified as a long-lost Aztec treasure that was stolen by Spanish conquistadors 500 years ago.



On June 30, 1520, Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés and his group were attacked by the rebelling Aztecs, with Cortés ultimately stealing a trove of Aztec treasures, escaping Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City) with his life. The encounter, known as the "night of Sadness" in Spanish history, resulted in the deaths of many Spanish soldiers as their ship sank. The treasures they had stolen also sank, including the 4.25-pound gold bar, according to a statement from Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).

The bar was discovered by a construction worker in 1981 on the route Cortés was believed to have taken. It was analyzed and determined that it was 76.2 percent gold, 20.8 percent silver and 3 percent copper, José Luis Ruvalcaba, of the Institute of Physics of The National Autonomous University of Mexico.

At present spot gold prices, the bar would be worth approximately \$99,200.

The composition of the bar matched the other gold pieces that were discovered by an INAH excavation of the main temple in Tenochtitlán, making it likely the giant gold bar also belonged to the Aztecs, the statement added.

The gold that was found at Templo Mayor also matched gold pieces around the monolith of the goddess Tlategutli that were discovered at the temple.





### Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

"If these values are compared with those recorded in the graph of Mesoamerican geographical areas of use, we will realize that the ingot is located within the group of pieces recovered by the Templo Mayor Project," Ruvalcaba noted.

Ruvalcaba continued: "Even more interesting is that it is perfectly located in the region occupied by our later pieces, those of stage VI (1486-1502 AD), and particularly those found around the monolith of the goddess Tlaltecuhltli, as it is the case of offerings 122, 123, 125 and 149. The above is significant, since the ingot would have been cast between 1519 and 1520 AD."

In a separate discovery, archaeologists discovered the first-ever Aztec royal tomb, finding an array of sacrificial remains during an excavation at the base of the Templo Mayor temple site in downtown Mexico City in 2019.

Other grisly discoveries have been revealing aspects of the Aztecs' bloodthirsty culture. A vast array of skulls buried at the Templo Mayor, for example, offers a chilling glimpse into Aztec human sacrifice.

In 2012, archaeologists announced the discovery of the skeleton of a young woman surrounded by piles of 1,789 human bones in the Templo Mayor



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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Mar 2020**

**(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921**  
**(<https://www.wmmi.org/>) (Free to GPR Member with badge)**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">           Women's History Month         </div>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">             Daylight Saving Time Begins           </div>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">             St Patrick's Day           </div>	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <b>GPR Club Meeting</b> </div>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				