

THE GOLD NUGGET

Mar 2020

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

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



Why is it that time seems to just 'fly' when we get older? It seems to me that when I was younger, time just dragged and dragged and dragged. I couldn't wait for school to be out or Track to start. I couldn't wait to get out hunting or trapping. I couldn't wait to have my first car. I just couldn't wait for this, that, or whatever it was at the time. It seemed that time just never would hurry up and pass. Now, it is just the opposite. Time is flying by so fast that I can't hardly keep up with it.

I think that when the weather is like it has been the whole of February, cold and even more cold, that it causes a little melancholy to set in. It kind of makes me think of the 'old timers' who came out here in search of yaller gold and had to endure some pretty ferocious winters. When you are shut up in a small cabin or dugout with nothing to do, it can drive you crazy. And a lot of those old boys were pretty tough customers all in all, but even they found themselves victim of that old malady that they called 'cabin fever'. Fortunately, with all our modern conveniences, escape is merely a suggestion or idea away today. Some of our members easily avoid the doldrums by packing up and heading to warmer climes where there is still plenty of gold such as Arizona or southern California. Tom Massie pretty well proved that there is gold in every state of the Union so it really is a matter of where you want to go, for how long, and what the weather is where you plan to go. And even if you don't want to travel somewhere warm, there is plenty of places right here in Colorado, where a winter prospector can get outside and get to good gold.

There are guys and gals in the water all up and down the South Platte River and Clear Creek. There are even some hardy souls who manage to get into the Arkansas River as well. And there are as many options over on the Western Slope where the water is accessible and the gold can be found as well. So 'cabin fever' can easily be controlled today, and if you get it, then it is your own darn fault and you shouldn't complain about it.

I have been watching the Discovery Show 'Reclaimed' and have found it fairly interesting. The Colorado locations have featured a number of folks that have become part of the 'gold culture' here in Colorado. I just returned home from meeting up with one of our old time members, Jerry Jensen, as we had an opportunity to do a little business together on behalf of the Club. Jerry had a small cameo spot in the episode of the Show involving the Poor Boy Mine near Idaho Springs that is owned by Dave Mosch, who also now owns the Phoenix Mine. Jerry was also with the Club when he helped to teach the very first class to the Jefferson County Opens Space Rangers in Clear Creek Canyon. We had a good time reminiscing about the Club as it was in the old days and how it has become now. We had a good time talking and sharing Alaskan experiences as well, as he has been up there several times himself, and we found that we have dug the same ground in a few places.

As I mentioned in last month's meeting, gold prices have jumped significantly. This has been driven mostly by the Market fall as a direct result of the corona virus sweeping the world right now. Erupting in China, the virus is spreading rapidly and causing havoc with the World Markets. Since so much trade and manufacturing comes from China, the travel and commerce bans now in place are affecting economies worldwide. Go figure! How we ever allowed China to get their hooks so deeply into our economy is beyond me, though I do have some pretty good ideas how all this came about, and none of them are very good. Greed has a lot to do with it. Until this crisis passes, I see gold staying where it is for a little while. If the Market drops any more than it has in the last couple of days, then gold just might break 1700 for the first time in quite a while. This will be great for those selling but bad for those of us buying. How much it will affect the Club purchases in the near future remains to be seen, but I am on it and ever watchful. Most of us prospectors know that we aren't going to really get rich out there digging for gold anymore. It is a rare occasion when someone hits a pocket or streak significant to go buy a new boat, car or house these days. But there is always that hope that keeps a lot of us poking around and looking. Mostly, all we ever find is a little flour gold here and there, 'but it all adds up', as we are so fond of saying to each other.

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'.



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You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com . Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

The V.P. Corner by “Joe Fortunato



Greetings fellow gold prospectors. We are already two months into the New Year. I am embarrassed to report that I have done no prospecting and very little metal detecting in the last two months. I only managed to get out metal detecting three times since the holidays. The weather has certainly been a factor lately but January was a decent month, so, no excuses for me on that note. I have spent a good amount of my indoor time on research as always during the winter months. A few days ago, it occurred to me that this would be a good time to revisit some facts about gold here in Colorado. When the time comes to decide where to go on your next prospecting adventure, these words are sound advice...“To Find Gold, Go Where Gold Was Found”. This simple statement will get you to proven gold producing locations. Then you do your research and narrow your search down to specific spots. Then you will need to determine the land status. If the land is open to prospecting, you can proceed with your prospecting plan. The following information is from the book “Gold Placers of Colorado” by Dr. Ben H. Parker, Jr. This information will narrow your focus and make it easier to select locations with greater odds of finding some gold. There are seven counties in Colorado that have produced the majority of our placer gold. The following numbers are for ounces of placer gold recovered.....Summit 739,375 Lake 358,569 Park 342,183 Clear Creek 139,899 Chaffee 78,723 Gilpin 47,874 Routt/Moffat 20,431. There are a number of other counties that also produced placer gold, but those listed above would be likely places to start. We have places to prospect and find gold right here, close to home, but if you are feeling adventurous there are plenty of places to explore. I hope that this “little teaser” might be enough to inspire some of our members to “expand their horizons”. Well, I guess that is about all for this month. Until next time..... MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE.....GOLDEN !!!!! Questions or comments..... Call or Text 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato.

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From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The March Meeting will feature a nine (9)-nugget giveaway that will include a 2.4-gram nugget. Be sure and buy your red tickets for that drawing. 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 Feb 2020

X	James Long		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: 3 phone calls, 12 e-mails, 10 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 156199 Hits for last 2 month 227

Committee Reports: All committee assignments to remain the same for 2020. Ask for interim Outing Leader for 3030. BM Manning accepted the position.

Unfinished Business: None at this time

New Business: Board voted unanimously to drop CSMGM Membership due to the fact that the Club receives no benefit from this. Board did vote to renew the PLP Membership of \$150.00 and the WMMI Membership of \$350.00.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Subtract the # of electrons in an atom of gold from its atomic weight and that number is the answer to this month’s question.

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



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Planned Outings for 2020: Outing Schedule has been prepared and will be published with the Newsletter in March

From the Board: Pres. Long discussed the rise in gold prices. BM Stevens suggested that David Emslie might be a good bet for a tour of his new mill. Pres. Long will contact him and see if this is workable. BM Shubert was absent due to the inclement weather. There was nothing further added by the rest of the Board..

Additional Announcements: Next Board Meeting: Mar. 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Next General Meeting: Mar. 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Tonight's general meeting program: We will be having a video presentation on the Gold Mine in the Clouds, a mine in New Guinea owned by Freemont/McMoRan.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:45 pm.

General Meeting Minutes From Feb 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 video presentation on The Gold Mine in the Clouds, a mine owned by Freeport/McMoRan in New Guinea. This was a good video and extremely interesting.
3. **The Metals Report** is as follows: Gold 1611.30, Silver 18.41, Platinum 1006.00, Palladium 2615.00, and Rhodium 10800.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month was 227.
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' tonight so be sure to buy extra tickets. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.
6. **Dan McConnell** reported from the **Membership Table** that we had 38 members in attendance. There was one new member tonight. The total meeting attendance was 39. This was attributable to the inclement weather and the very slick roads around town tonight.
7. The '**Question of the Month**', is... "**Most of us probably know the melting point of gold (1948 degrees F), but what is it's' boiling point???**" 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**" # 2.
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, except for tonight, 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 has been completed and will be published along with the March Newsletter. We will be starting with a trip to Blackhawk to prospect on April 18.
12. **Pres. Long** advised that
 - The gold prices have been inching up and are now over 1600.00 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.
 - There are metal detecting Hunts coming up this year, one in Golden, Colo., hosted by the Eureka Club, and a second one in Mancos, Colo., hosted by WATTS. Flyers are available at the front table.
 - The Colo. Mineral Society is hosting a mineral show in April at the Crown Plaza so check that out as well.
 - There was nothing additional of note added from the Floor.
13. The break was then announced at 8:22 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:40 pm.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer was, "**5,378 degrees F**"!! There were 22 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** – **Hank Innerfeld** with a 1964 quarter he found in a parking lot.



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- **Best Jewelry** – **John Olson** with a gold ring he found in a Denver Park while metal detecting.
- **Best Mineral** – There was no entry for this category this month.
- **Best Artifact** – . There was no entry for this category this month.
- **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, Hank Innerfeld and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 14 door prizes and 9 gold nuggets. We drew the winning ticket for the ‘**Special Nugget**’ and the winner was **Bob Woodruff** who was not present due to illness. He will be presented with the nugget at the March meeting. 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 March Meeting Program** will be a two-part presentation. One will be a short video on gold prospecting followed by a short talk on gold prospecting in New Zealand by **Steve Pott**.
20. 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’!
21. The Meeting was **adjourned at 9:01 pm**.

A Miner’s Laugh

There once were twin boys, aged six, that had developed extreme personalities. One was a pessimist and the other a total optimist. Concerned, their parents took them to a psychiatrist. At first, the psychiatrist treated the pessimist. Trying to brighten his outlook, the psychiatrist took him to a room filled with toys. But instead of yelping with delight, the little boy burst into tears. “What’s the matter?” the psychiatrist asked. “Don’t you want to play with any of the toys?” “Yes,” the little boy bawled, “but if I did I would only break them.”



Next, the psychiatrist treated the optimist. Trying to dampen his outlook, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with horse manure. But instead of wrinkling his nose in disgust, the optimist climbed to the top of the pile, and began gleefully digging out scoop after scoop with his bare hands.

“What are you doing?” the baffled psychiatrist asked. The little boy replied, “With all this manure, there must be a pony in here somewhere...!!”

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

The finds of the Month Feb 2020:

Be sure to bring your finds of the month that you have collected since the November 2019 meeting. The judging will start anew for the year 2020 and the November Finds are included in the 2020 contest.

- **Best Coin** – **Hank Innerfeld** with a 1964 quarter he found in a parking lot in Denver.
- **Best Jewelry** – **John Olson** with a beautiful gold ring he found while metal detecting in a Denver City Park.
- **Best Mineral** – There was no entry for this category this month.
- **Best Artifact** – There was no entry for this category this month.



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- **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

2-21-20 Newmont exceeds 4Q Expectations – Newmont Corp., on Thursday reported fourth quarter earnings of \$500 million. The Greenwood Village, Colorado, based company said it had net income of 69 cents per share. Earnings, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to 50 cents per share. The results exceeded Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of five analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 48 cents per share. The gold and copper miner posted revenue of \$2.97 billion dollars. Newmont shares have climbed slightly more than 6% since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has increased almost 5%. The stock has risen 34% in the last 12 months.

Colorado Mining History

In 1849 and 1850, several parties of gold seekers bound for the California Gold Rush panned small amounts of gold from various streams in the South Platte River Valley at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in then western Kansas Territory, now northeast Colorado. The gold nuggets initially failed to impress the gold seekers, but rumors of gold in the Rocky Mountains persisted, and several small parties explored the region. In the summer of 1857, a party of Spanish-speaking gold seekers from the New Mexico Territory worked a placer deposit along the South Platte River about 5 miles (8 kilometers) above Cherry Creek (in what is today the Overland Park neighborhood of Denver.) The following year, William Greeneberry "Green" Russell led a party of Cherokee gold seekers from the State of Georgia to search for gold along the South Platte River. In the first week of July 1858, Green Russell and Sam Bates found a small placer deposit near the mouth of Little Dry Creek (in present day Englewood) that yielded about 20 troy ounces (622 grams) of gold, the first significant gold discovery in the Rocky Mountain region. News of this discovery soon spread. An estimated 100,000 gold seekers flocked to the region over the next three years. The placer gold deposits along the rivers and streams of the region rapidly played out, but miners soon discovered far more valuable seams of hard rock gold, silver, and other minerals in the nearby mountains.

Central City, Colorado History

In 1859 John Gregory discovered gold in what became known as "Gregory's Gulch", near the present day site of Central City. The Gregory's Gulch discovery is among the first important gold discoveries in Colorado. Many camps were initially formed in the gulch as thousands of miners arrived at the rich placer diggings. Eventually these communities were consolidated into three main towns - Black Hawk, Nevadaville, and what was originally just known as "Central" as it was at the center of the district. Central would become Central City and was the primary settlement of what would be known as "The Richest Square Mile on Earth". Central City was Colorado's largest city for a number of years. Even after Denver surpassed it in population, Central City remained Colorado's economic center into the 1870s. This mining metropolis was visited by many of the world's most important people, including President Grant, Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, and numerous important government figures and celebrities from around the world.



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Central City – 1860 The Difficult Transition to Lode Mining

By the early 1860s, the placer diggings in Gregory Gulch began to run out and more attention was placed on developing lode mines. While lode mining did keep the district active, many difficulties were experienced that slowed mine development through much of the 1860s. The ore deposits of Colorado were complex and required smelting processes that were yet to be developed at this early date. The result was that the independent miners that struck it rich at Gregory Gulch placer mines had difficulty transitioning successfully into lode mining. Many of the early pioneers that had built the district became disillusioned and either headed home back east, or set out prospecting in the hope of finding the next big strike. What Gregory Gulch needed was outside capital, machinery, and experienced men that could solve the district's hard-rock woes. Unfortunately the onset of the Civil War made these resources scarce just as they were needed, and the district languished for several years as the war in the East consumed the nation's resources and attention. Despite the difficulty of the war years, the rich deposits of the district would keep Central City and the other gulch towns alive through these difficult times, even as other towns in Colorado were abandoned. Placer deposits were not yet entirely depleted, and hard rock mining was still advancing even if the available reduction techniques were inefficient. In the years after the Civil War ended, eastern capital began to flow again and investors were eager to get into the Colorado mining scene. Many of the top producing mines were bought by investors and company men were sent from the East to manage the gulch mines. The problem of efficient ore reduction remained, but by the late 1860s smelters were being operated in the gulch that used new techniques that proved revolutionary in the treatment of Colorado ores. The result was a boost to the mines of the gulch, and the establishment of Black Hawk as Colorado's first smelting center. Central City was born as a placer mining town and struggled for years to transition successfully to hard-rock mining, but by the late 1860s the town and district were established as Colorado's first great lode mining district and smelting center. The future was bright for Colorado's original mining empire.



Central City's Golden Years

The 1870s were a prosperous and exciting time for Central City. The mines of the gulch were producing steadily. The "Richest Square Mile on Earth" continued to be Colorado's premier mining district and Central City was still Colorado's economic center, even if Denver had surpassed it by population. Central City's prominence both in Colorado and around the country resulted in it becoming a center of both culture and industry, unusual among mining camps at the time. Many of the mine owners, managers, and other business owners were educated and often from elite Eastern families. This element of "society" would shape much of Central City's history, a topic that was covered in some detail in Caroline Bancroft's excellent book *Gulch of Gold - A history of Central City, Colorado*. Central City had already experienced fires, but it was the fire of 1874 that had the greatest impact on the town's history. The great fire destroyed most of the business district, around 150 buildings, most of them wooden buildings built during the previous decade. The gulch mines were surging at the time, and Central City was entirely rebuilt in a matter of months, this time with substantial buildings of brick and stone, many of which still stand today. Central City's society had a long history of theatrical performances. This interest in theater culminated in 1878 with the construction of the Central City Opera House, a magnificent stone building constructed by Cornish miners. The building was a triumph of design and craftsmanship, and it solidified Central City's reputation as the cultural capital of the Colorado mining districts. Unfortunately, Central City's reign as Colorado's mining center was about end, and the grand opera house would only shine for a few short years. The building would endure however, and ultimately would shape Central City's history more than any single building defined a Western mining town.

Central City Loses Its Crown

1880 is the year that Central City lost its status as Colorado's leading mining center. In an unusual twist of fate, Central City lost its status not because its mines were waning, in fact the mines of Central City were producing more wealth than ever. What happened is Leadville. The bonanza at Leadville was at a scale not before seen in Colorado. While Central City mines produced more wealth in 1880 than any prior year, Leadville produced over 5 times as much. Other silver districts were also experiencing a boom, casting further shadow on Central City's production. Many of town's elite began moving to where the fresh excitement was. Prominent citizens moved to Leadville and took their businesses with them. Some relocated to Aspen. Yet others would relocate to the numerous new mining areas that were becoming prominent throughout the state. The spectacular mines of Leadville became the place to invest, and capital for development of



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Central City mines became scarce, resulting in a drop in production of fifty percent by 1883. With great riches coming from other districts, the gulch was no longer positioned to be an effective smelting center and smelters were relocated to Denver. Prominent smelter owners and engineers departed Central City to be at the new facilities.

View of Central City in the 1880s

One after another, the people that built the great institutions of Central City were leaving for greener pastures. With cultured society exiting the gulch, interest in the theater waned and by 1882 the opera house was in financial trouble. The theater managed to hang on, although with audiences now being primarily miners it became a venue with minstrel shows, boxing matches and the like. Central City's renowned theater productions came to an inglorious end. Central City would have the last laugh however as the Gilpin County mines rebounded even as the great silver districts declined after the silver crash of 1893. By the 1890s the district's mineral production was once again at record levels, and Central City's population reached an all-time high. Despite increased production at the mines, Central City would never again hold its prominent position in Colorado. In the 1870s Gilpin County mines produced fifty percent of Colorado's mineral wealth. In the 1890s, that number was just five percent. Many districts were producing in Colorado now and Central City became just another mining camp.



Central City Enters the New Century

While Central City's diverse ores and deep mines made it one of the West's longest and most consistent producers, the Gilpin County mines couldn't continue to operate indefinitely. The World War I years marked the end of prosperity for The Richest Hill on Earth. With dwindling mine production, the towns of Gregory Gulch were rapidly losing population. By 1925 the population of Central City was down to just four hundred, with just two hundred at Black Hawk and ten lonely souls in Nevadaville. Conditions improved somewhat during the 1930s. The Great Depression drove desperate men to once again operate long-abandoned placer mines in the gulch. The price of gold increased from \$20 an ounce to \$35, allowing for some of the deep mines to reopen.

Like most gold districts, World War II signaled the end of the mining industry. The federal government ordered non-essential industries to be shut down, and this included the gold mines of the gulch. After eight decades of mining, the Richest Square Mile on Earth was finally quiet.

The Opera House to the Rescue

The iconic building was used as a motion picture theater from 1910 until 1927 when it was finally closed down permanently. The building sat empty, in disrepair, until a chance encounter changed the fortunes of both the building and the depressed town. In 1929 Theater Director Walter Sinclair of New Orleans was vacationing in Colorado and he stumbled upon the boarded up Central City Opera House. Enamored with the building, Sinclair could not stop talking about it and in an incredible stroke of luck he happened upon the current owner of the theater, Ida McFarlane. Sinclair convinced McFarlane that the theater was something special, and needed to be preserved. In 1931 the building was gifted to the University of Denver in May of 1931, and the newly formed Central City Opera House Association organized efforts to restore the dilapidated building. At the same time the Central City Opera Company was formed to produce new theatrical performances. The summer of 1932 saw the reopening of the opera house with a new performances and a festival that lives on to this day. The reopening of the theater had a significant impact on the future of Central City. At a time when the mines were fading and the city was losing its historical treasures, the opera brought back some of the culture that had defined Central City in the first two decades of its existence. The impacts were immediately felt. Tourism jobs brought back part of the economy that was lost when the mines closed. Writers and artists took interest in the town and bought summer homes. Attention was turned to historical preservation at a time when the attitude was to modernize or simply tear down historical structures.

Central City in 2006

The Central City Opera organization now owns and maintains twenty-eight historic properties. The summer festival at the opera house continues to be a popular event. Gambling was legalized in the towns of Central City and Black Hawk in the 1990s and casinos are now an important part of the local economy. Thankfully due to preservation efforts going back to the Great Depression, an incredible amount of history has been preserved at Central City. It is one of the West's best mining town destinations.





FORGOTTEN SHORT STORIES OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH

The Second Klondike Kate

About the same time that Kathleen Rockwell was packing up her skirts to dance, Katherine Ryan was also getting ready to head north. However, she had very different plans for what she was going to do once she got there. Ryan was working as a nurse in Vancouver when she got word of the Gold Rush fever that was gripping the country. She went north carrying a Winchester rifle and wearing work boots. She was one of the first women to make it up to Alaska and, upon arriving, she teamed up with a detachment of North West Mounted Police officers who helped her carry her years' worth of supplies in return for some hot meals.

With just \$5 to her name, she opened her first restaurant and began investing in some of the gold mines. Within two years, she had not only opened another restaurant—called Klondike Kate's Cafe—but she had also earned a place within the NWMP as the first female Mountie. As a special constable, she was responsible for dealing with female prisoners and for ensuring that no gold left Canada without the fortunate finders paying all the appropriate taxes.

She helped other miners record their life stories and their adventures, and during World War I she spearheaded fund-raising efforts for the war. She died in 1932, and received a Royal Canadian Mounted Police honor guard for her funeral in recognition of all she had done for her country.

Dyea: A Klondike Ghost Town

Before the Klondike Gold Rush, Dyea was nothing more than a tiny trading post that sat conveniently on the Taiya River. Native people used it as a point to trade goods coming in from Russia and various United States trading companies, and going out from Canada's interior.

The river was soon deluged with gold prospectors from the South, and Dyea became the major kickoff point for the Klondike. Between October 1897 and May 1898, the population of the town constantly fluctuated between 5,000 and 8,000 people. In order to deal with this massive influx, the town quickly erected 48 hotels, 47 restaurants, two breweries, four cemeteries, two hospitals, two telephone companies, 39 taverns, and a variety of other services.

The population boom lasted just a few years, though—by 1903, the town had a population of three. Today, Dyea is nothing more than the bare remnants of a ghost town. Many of the buildings have either been demolished or destroyed by the shifting river. Visitors to Dyea can still see some traces of the prosperity that once caused the town's meteoric rise, including the ruins of a warehouse that stored prospectors' supplies, a bridge, a rowboat, and the false front of the A.M. Gregg Real Estate Office.

There are also signs that the people who came to Dyea thought they were going to be staying much longer than they did, such as trees carefully planted to form windbreaks that would protect the homes they thought they would permanently live in.






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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Apr 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
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sundav	6	7	8 Passover Begins	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15 GPR Club Meeting	16	17	18 GPR Outing
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		