

# THE GOLD NUGGET

November 2020

## **The Meeting for November is Cancelled!**

Clements Center is limiting the meetings and they must be masked and maintain 6' social distancing. Therefore, we are still unable to conduct meetings due to the size of our Club. As soon as the governor (*not my governor*) issues new directives, they will let me know.

We were able to get in a Prospecting Outing in September when Gilpin County released their restrictions. Look for that article further in this newsletter.

Until then, please stay safe and pray for an early return to normalcy...! THIS YEAR HAS GONE TOTALLY NUTSO...!

## **The Prez Sez by Jim Long**



I am simply dismayed at the result of this stupid so called pandemic and all of the fall out as a result of it. I grieve for those who have contracted the virus and for those who have died from it. It has left its ugly touch on some of our membership. Now, this recent uptick has ensured that we will remain shut down for months to come, effectively cancelling all of our remaining scheduled events including the Christmas Dinner/Recognition get together. I have no idea when things will improve. I have no idea if there will even be a vaccine any time soon. I have no idea why Dr. Fauci and all his cohorts who worked on this virus with the Chinese at the Huwan Lab are not all in jail as we speak for letting this pestilence loose on the world platform. I am in my mid-70's and I don't understand why this kind of corruption can't be dealt with promptly, swiftly, and effectively. Damn it, this is

America...! This is the country that has made the technological advancements of anybody on the planet to date...! We went to the moon and back...! Why can't we solve these things...? I do not understand and I guess I never will and it makes me angry...! I hope it makes you angry as well!

Therefore, both feet back on the ground and my hat on my head, I shall plow forward. Gold is a funny thing. Just when you think you have an idea of its worth, you don't. If you think it should skyrocket, it doesn't. If you think it should crash, it doesn't. Pretty sure it must be a sentient thing that does what it wants no matter what us mere humans think it should or shouldn't do. So, in all this hectic and frantic time we are going through, you would think it would be 3000 an ounce or more. But it isn't. It is holding as steady as can be in the high 1800's, low 1900's from over 2000. I don't know why. Silver was supposed to skyrocket, but it has dropped back to the high 23 and low 24's from 28. I don't know why. There is just so much going on right now in our everyday world that I thought I had a pretty good handle on, but it would seem that I know nothing at all. I can't wait to see what Nov. 3 thru 5th brings to the price of gold. Now that should really be interesting!

Of only one thing can I be sure of. Here in Colorado, the weather will change frequently and keep you on your toes, as it has lately. VP Joe Fortunato has been on pins and needles as his summer cabin is in Red Feather Lakes and the Cameron Peak Fire got awful close to him. He was going to Nevada to detect for gold in late October and I hope he got to go. His group of 2 or 3 guys being way out in the boondocks should pose no issue or risk for covid and I hope he was successful on both fronts. The forest fires in the last month in Colorado have been some of the worst I have ever seen and I have seen my share. I did a stint on a national hot shot fire team in the late 1960's so I know what these firefighters go through on these big fires. Been there done that..! I feel for everyone who have lost their homes and lives in these fires. Hopefully, these snows will stop them. Far too many of these fires have been human caused. In Oregon and California, some of those fires were started by Antifa and a couple of those scum guys were caught in the act. I hope they were charged with homicide if anyone died in those fires.

I reposted a story from the Associated Press about President Trump signing an Executive Order to ease the permitting process for the mining industry in the newsletter. The liberal extremists and environmentalists are probably still in a coma from exploding heads when he did that. But as I have stated before, we have to revitalize the mining industry and wean ourselves off the dependency on China for our rare earth minerals. They are a matter of national security and if we have to depend on our sworn enemies for vital materials and minerals, we are as good as conquered without a single shot being fired. I have no desire to learn Chinese or Russian or Iranian. I am too old for that..! So I was glad to see the story. I could clearly see the fingerprints of the PLP, AMRA and a couple of the other mining organizations all over that announcement.

Rumor is very strong that our good friend Kevin Singel is out locating lots of new places to go to prospect which he will divulge in a new book on finding gold in Colorado that he is working on. And his lovely wife, Laura Hoepfner, is in the



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process of completing a photographic book of Colorado wonders to behold. She is quite an accomplished photographer. I eagerly look forward to the production results of both their efforts. They should both be very good.

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 seekers. I just returned a couple of days ago (Oct. 30th) from a Nevada gold detecting trip. It has been one year and one week since my last Nevada metal detecting adventure. Plans for a spring trip this year got side tracked due to the COVID-19 situation, which was a big disappointment for me. I had planned on leaving a week earlier but some things popped up that required a delay in plans. It worked out quite

well though, as I reflect on another great gold detecting adventure. The weather was good for the drive out, the six days that we detected, and also for the drive back to Colorado. We had a couple of cold mornings while detecting, but the weather was good for the majority of the time. The ground was very dry, which makes for prime detecting in that alkaline soil around Rye Patch. I met up with my friends Ken and Mike from California, we detected together for two days, and then Mike headed home. Ken and I detected together on day three, then we met up with Rick and Robert on days four and five. We added several new areas to detect thanks to Rick and Robert sharing some nugget patches that Ken and I were not aware of. The last day Ken and I were on our own and returned to a spot that always seems to produce a few nuggets, usually small, but gold is gold!!! I managed to find gold five days out of six, and found more pieces of gold (33) than on any prior Nevada outing. I also managed to find what these guys call a "bumper nugget", that is when you find a nugget very close to your vehicle. I took a picture of my detector sitting right across the road from my truck, the coil is on the spot where I dug the nugget. I will forward the picture to Pres. Long, maybe he or Andy Doll can get it in this article, otherwise you will just have to take my word for it. I guess that is about all that I have for now. 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 Coronavirus has disrupted everything so whenever we are able to reconvene, the next Meeting will feature a nine (9) nugget giveaway which will include a 2.4 gram nugget. We hope to have a new "Special Nugget" by then as well. Be sure and bring extra cash for the nugget giveaways We will hopefully present the February winner of the special nugget their beautiful prize. 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 whenever we finally get to reconvene. Hope to see you all there at the next meeting..!!

## Board Meeting Minutes From Oct 2020

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



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THERE WAS NO BOARD MEETING FOR Oct DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.  
HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.

#### QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR THE NEXT TIME WHENEVER WE MEET?

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

### General Meeting Minutes From Oct 2020

1. DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THERE WAS NO Oct MEETING.
2. Since it is highly unlikely that we will be meeting anytime in 2020, Club Elections will be postponed until we do meet again. There will be several openings on the Board. If you are interested in running for one of the Offices, please contact President Long at 303-907-3540 or [jnslong945@msn.com](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com) and let him know of your interest. You can nominate yourself.
3. Positions that will be available are President, Vice President, and three Board positions; two one year positions and one two year position.. Each of these positions are quickly and easily trainable!!!

### A Miner's Laugh

An old retired miner has been drinking all day at a local bar and checks his watch.

"1:30am, rats. I need to go home now or my wife's going to kill me", he thinks to himself. But as he's trying to get up, he falls awkwardly on the floor.

"I'm just way too drunk right now, I need to sober up."

So he asks the bartender for a coffee, he drinks it up and 30 minutes later he tries to stand up, but again, falling to the floor, this time, even harder.

At this point he realizes he needs to get home no matter what, so he starts crawling towards his house. After 40 minutes he gets there, lays down next to his sleeping wife and passes out.

The next morning his wife wakes him up and starts shouting at him, "So... how was last night, huh? Was it fun drinking all day?"

The man is certain his wife was asleep when he got home so he tries to play it cool, "Not really, just hanging with some coworkers... we didn't drink much... just a couple of beers."

His wife starts nodding sarcastically and responds, "The bar owner called this morning, you left your wheelchair there."

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





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

Be sure to bring your finds of the month that you have collected since the **February meeting**. All those finds will be in competition when we can reconvene next, which may in fact, not be until May. The judging has started anew for the year 2020 and the November 2019 Finds are included in the 2020 contest.

Be sure to save all your winning items for the November 2020 judging.

## **The Meeting for November has been Cancelled!**

"Due to the current covid uptick, I am seriously doubting right now, that we will be getting a meeting in any time soon. This means that I am sure all of our planned events for the rest of the year are cancelled. However, I will of course let everyone know should things change. Until then, maintain your social distancing, wear those hated masks, and hope this madness goes away, the sooner the better."

Several members have queried as to the possibility of doing some kind of Zoom or Virtual Video Conference type meetings. I have considered this approach at length. I have a number of concerns that I cannot find solutions for. First, as the informational part of the meeting, most of that stuff is contained within this newsletter and keeps the membership up to date each month on gold related issues and related articles even as we wait out this pandemic. Second, as to the Program portion of the meetings, I see no way that we can reach the entire membership with a video conference or Zoom type of computerized meeting. The logistics of coordinating speakers and or videos for everyone just won't work for us. It is just as easy for the membership to watch U-tube videos on their own for their enjoyment and education. As to the other internal programs that make our meetings so interesting and entertaining, the Question of The Month provides the winners with an extra ticket to the gold drawings. The pandemic that resulted in our meetings being cancelled by the governor and tri-county health, directly contributed to a statistic of some concern for us. Membership renewals abruptly stopped. We had only 35% of our current membership renew for 2020. Knowing that early on, we were all in a mandatory stay at home order from the governor, I chose to make no issue of it as people who were suddenly out of work faced financial issues of their own putting the Club out of the picture. But those renewals as well as new memberships are what the Club buys the gold with that we give away. No money, no gold. Since we aren't meeting, we aren't giving away any gold at the moment, so it may resolve itself if we can get together early on in 2021 and start over. We cannot have virtual gold drawings in all honesty as the integrity of the drawings can be too easily questioned. As your President, I will ensure that there be no appearance of impropriety in how this Club conducts its business. Same applies to the general nugget giveaways. These facets of our meetings must be conducted in person. The Finds of the Month contests are not able to be judged on line and really must be done in person. So much of our Regular Monthly Meetings just don't work in a Zoom or Virtual setting. Lastly, we do have some members who do not have computers, laptops, or the ability to participate in this type of technology in a group computerized setting. I cannot justify doing something virtually if only a percentage of the membership can participate in it and not all. But I am open to ideas and suggestions as long as those making them take into consideration all the factors that I have mentioned herein. Sometimes it sounds like it ought to be easy to do something when in reality, the logistics of making the something work can often be far too complex to achieve. And so there we are.! Feel free to contact me if you have a workable solution that provides for all the above. It won't be easy..!

Pres. Long

## **The White House Tries to Fast-Track Mining**... *Associated Press October 2, 2020*

The Trump Administration is seeking to fast-track mining projects and could offer grants and loans to help companies pay for equipment, administration officials said as they offered details on a plan that critics said could spoil rivers and lakes in Minnesota, Idaho and elsewhere with mining pollution. With the election just over a month away, President Trump signed an order declaring a national emergency over the country's reliance on imported metals used to manufacture computers, smart phones, batteries for electric cars and other items. The order goes beyond the administration's prior focus on so-called critical minerals that are in short supply and applies to copper, nickel, and other metals widely used in manufacturing. It is the latest in a string of actions by the administration meant to boost the mining industry by hastening environmental reviews and shielding companies from international market pressures. How effective it will be is



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uncertain. Mines typically need approval from state regulators in addition to the federal government, giving opponents more than one avenue to block projects. Trump advisor Peer Navarro described how the order could be used to transform the resource rich Iron Range area in the election battleground state of Minnesota from an iron mining area into a more diverse mining district, thereby lessening dependence on materials from countries such as China. “The vision here is to turn the Iron Range in northern Minnesota into the Copper Range, the Nickel Range, the Cobalt Range, the Platinum Range and the Palladium Range as well,” Navarro told reporters in a telephone briefing. Opponents worry the proposed Twin Metals underground copper-nickel mine near Ely could ruin the pristine Boundary Waterways Canoe Area Wilderness downstream, a project the Obama administration tried to kill. They are also opposed to a separate project nearby, the proposed PolyMet mine near Babbitt. Both deposits also have smaller but economically significant amounts of cobalt, platinum, palladium and gold. Trump’s order applies to projects nationwide, officials said, listing more than a dozen states with significant mineral deposits including California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Environmentalists raised specific concerns about its implications for Minnesota’s Iron Range, the proposed Resolution copper mine in Arizona and the Midas gold mine project in Idaho. Democratic US Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico blasted the order as a wasteful subsidy for an industry with a long history of abandoning polluted sites and leaving the taxpayers with huge cleanup bills. Under the 1872 Mining Law that governs the industry, companies are not required to pay royalties on minerals from public lands. “For too long in the West, the mining industry has enjoyed a sweetheart deal,” Udall said. “This strange announcement goes in the complete wrong direction.” He said the administration should be focused instead on the pandemic and using the Defense Production Act, which Trump cited in his mining order, to instead make sure enough PPE is available for the winter. Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon said the order would ease permitting delays and help expand an industry that the Republican said had been hampered by a combination of underpriced foreign competition and federal government inaction. Trump’s order does not itself approve any mines. It directs agencies led by the Interior Department to report back within 30 days on measures they can take to hasten mining projects.

*(This has been long needed and will help remove the stranglehold the Liberals have placed in mining. Of course Udall will whine about it because he is no more than a party minion like so many of them. We HAVE to escape the stranglehold that China has on so many of our rare earth metals which are directly related to our National Security. This is part of what PLP, AMRA and others have been working on that I have previously reported to you. God help us all if Trump is not re-elected. In four short years under the democratic/communist party, you will see the certain doom of mining as well as a lot of other American Institutions such as Social Security, to name just a couple.....JLL)*

## **How Curiosity Burst my Platinum Bubble** by Bob Schall

I have been metal detecting for gold for many years now, and I have had some success. In fact, I am probably more successful than most. However, doing some calculations of the gold found divided by the number of hours spent detecting, I figure I have probably made the fabulous sum of about one dollar per hour. Still, I have enjoyed almost every minute of it. It is the anticipation of that next big find that keeps me going! Those “calculations” also made me realize that I have spent many thousands of hours looking for gold over the last 30 years. In all that time, you would think I should have also found some bits of other precious metals such as silver and platinum. And maybe I have. I found some black metal ‘veins’ running through a rock matrix that certainly acted like tarnished native silver(which would be black after exposed to air). It is very conductive when checked with the metal detector and an ohm meter. I highly suspect this is silver because it came out of a very rich old silver mine. I have read where some fellows recently found large native silver chunks with detectors so I know it can happen. I have not run further tests on this find and it is not the primary topic of this article. I am sure most detectorists have found ‘tons’ of lead bullets and shattered bits of bullets like I have. These can usually be determined with the ‘dig into it with your fingernail’ test because of lead’s inherent softness. However, there is one place where I can find small silver-colored bits that are much harder than lead. They are untarnished after years of exposure to the air. I have found 5 or 6 of these in a wash while looking for and finding small gold nuggets. What are they? They are too hard to be lead and are not tarnished like silver should be. I had once been told by a retired mine official that a big company had found traces of platinum in this area, but it was not enough to mine profitably. He also said they wanted to keep it a secret in case platinum ever went way up in value. Wow! Maybe I do have platinum! Or do I only have ‘throw-away-nium’ or ‘leave-it-there-nium’, or just ‘dum-dum’ nium’? I tried to do a rough specific gravity test on these pieces but they are almost too small for my methods. The tests seemed to come out at about 12 or 14 which is a little high for silver and way too low for platinum. But again, I hear that almost all rare earth



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metals are a mix of a number of other rare earths. Could that be why my tests seem too low? I have not done any extensive testing on these as they don't amount to enough weight to be very valuable. Still, I would just like to know if I have really found platinum (or palladium, or yttrium or gallium or ???). It has weighed on my mind wondering about it. Then, out of the blue, a solution! At Tucson last year, I was talking to a 'professor' behind a 'we will identify your specimen' booth. I told him about my problem on identifying this odd metal, and he came up with a simple 'solution'. He said, "Just put the metal in 3% hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and if it is platinum, bubbles will immediately start coming off it. Platinum acts as a catalyst and does not enter itself into chemical reactions, but just facilitates them, like in your car's catalytic converter. The bubbles are supposedly the extra oxygen coming off when it is converted to plain water, or H<sub>2</sub>O. Wow, what a simple solution. Why hadn't I heard of this before? I've even got hydrogen peroxide in my medicine cabinet. So, later that day, I applied this 'magic' solution to my problem. I put the hydrogen peroxide into a small glass nugget bottle and dropped the 'platinum' into it. Almost instantly, like magic, bubbles came roaring off the metal! Wow! I have got platinum!! To be sure though, I let this go on for a couple of days. Two days later...still bubbles. Yes, I surely have platinum and this test was so darned easy. But, being the curious type, I got to wondering, 'just how foolproof is this test?' I decided to check it out the best I could. I put new H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in a new nugget bottle and dropped a small gold nugget into it. Uh oh!! More bubbles just like the 'platinum'. And these kept coming for a long time. So I tried again, but this time with a small piece of led split off a bullet. Yep, immediately bubbles were coming off just like all the other tests. Oh well, nice try, but I guess I am back to square one. At least we now know this test does not work. However, if anyone really has a simple test for platinum, I would surely like to know about it. I am told that jewelers have tests for gold, silver and platinum. I guess that should be my next step. I am somewhat hesitant though because I think that spending \$30 to test a \$20 nugget isn't too awful smart. Another problem is that I now don't know where the little zip lock bag is with the platinum bits in it. After moving back and forth between Illinois and Arizona so many times (I am a snowbird who heads south every winter), I can't remember where I put it. This has happened many times over the years, especially with small gold nuggets. I'll be searching around the house looking for something else, and I will run into a small bag of god bits. Then I get to wondering 'where did these come from?' Unless it is written on the bag, I usually have no idea. Then it goes into the safe or I give it away to a friend. I have found that I agree with Robert Service, the famous Alaska poet and prospector who stated, "It ain't so much the gold I love, as it is the findin' of the gold." But I would still like to know if I 'finded' platinum..!! Happy hunting..! Outback Bob

*(Reprinted from the August Issue of the ICMJ Prospecting Journal)*

## **Indictments Pile Up for Gold Traders** by Scott Harn

Gold and silver prices dropped significantly as the world learned of the Covid-19 crisis and investors sold everything, including gold and silver, to raise cash. Gold was hovering around \$1675 per troy ounce on February 24, 2020, and plunged several times over the next two months. The price was down almost \$200 per ounce one month later but continued to incrementally fight its way back up to \$1740 an ounce at our press time. Silver reacted in a similar fashion, dropping even more severely from a high of \$18.88 per ounce down to \$11.77 an ounce a month later. It has also recovered and the futures contract price sits at \$17.51 as I write this. In the past, it seemed the big banks involved in metals trading did their best to knock down metals prices. High precious metals prices used to correspond with low confidence in the US Dollar. The Bank of Nova Scotia, HSBC and JPMorgan Chase all appeared to take turns shorting the market and bringing prices down whenever it appeared to new highs were within sight. Some believe their massive short positions were backed by US government policy to prop up the value of the US Dollar. That may be the case, but I am not an expert in this area. However, it does appear that the big banks have lost their tight grip on the market. Several of the large banks are being investigated for illegal trading by the Department of Justice under the Trump administration, and some have already been indicted. There seems to be a shortage of physical gold as evidenced by the difference between the current spot price and the premium buyers must pay to obtain a troy ounce. That premium is currently from \$120 to \$130 above the current spot price. Bank of Nova Scotia announced on April 28, 2020, that the bank would wind down its metals trading at the beginning of 2021. In the bank's most recent quarterly statement, it stated, "The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and the Department of Justice's Criminal Division are conducting investigations into the bank's activities and trading practices in the metals markets and related conduct" and the bank was "responding to requests for information related to these investigations." JPMorgan Chase has six employees currently under indictment or investigation for alleged "spoofing" in the metals markets. Spoofing involves placing offers to purchase or sell future metals contracts but cancelling them before execution. JPMorgan Chase, in public filings, stated



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the company is dealing with multiple probes from “various authorities” and is “responding to and cooperating with these investigations.” And on April 22, Bank of America gold market analyst Michael Widmer raised his 18 month forecast for gold from \$2000 to \$3000 per troy ounce. If he is even close to being right, and the big banks have truly lost their grip on shorting the precious metals futures markets, we may be in for a wild ride..!

*(Scott Harn is the Publisher/Editor of the ICMJ Prospecting Journal. His article was published in the June 2020 issue. I thought this would be good to share with the membership since gold went up above \$2000 and silver went to \$28 plus shortly after Scott wrote this article. While gold has dropped again to the high \$1800's and silver is back down to high \$23's, it looks to me like Scott was right on the money. I have long said that gold does strange things to people and those who deal in gold are no exception to that. But right is right and wrong is wrong. For those who choose to try to make millions by underhanded means, hopefully the long arm of the law will smite them right into prison. All of this dovetails into the fact that Pres. Trump recently signed an Executive Order to knock back some of the hurdles in permitting processes for the mining industry. This was a result of the need to protect America's National Security and get control of more of our own earth precious metals and get the stranglehold that China has put around our necks off. I pray that when you all read this, Pres. Trump is still our President and America's future will look brighter. If not, then Heaven help us all, as we are gonna need it.....JLL)*

## The Virtue of Gold

Exploring this precious metal's symbolic meaning throughout religion: If you've ever toured the Vatican, Dome of the Rock, or any other famous sacred site, then you have likely seen an abundance of golden chalices, 24-karat plated ceilings and other opulent displays. While we are more attuned to gold's monetary value, its significance in these places of worship goes much deeper than that. When we look through historical religious texts, we find that gold is more than a symbol of wealth or status. For believers of many different faiths, it serves as a powerful sign of divinity, connecting them to a more spiritual existence.

**Ancient Worshippers:** In ancient times, the Romans referred to gold as aurum, which stemmed from the Latin word for sunrise. Aurora was personified in Roman mythology as the goddess of the dawn, awakening and riding ahead of the sun until the sky illuminated gold. This radiance is one of the key reasons that gold is viewed as a symbol of divine energy and immortality. Buddhists, for example, believe that gold is symbolic of the sun and they offer praise to the sun god Suya. According to Redlands Daily Facts, “The ancient Egyptians had a passion for gold because they believed the substance to be the skin of the gods.” At their burial, they laid their tombs with lavish amounts of gold in hopes that it would unleash their true divine nature. Many ancient civilizations, from the Aztecs to the Byzantines, also incorporated gold into their burial ceremonies. They, too, saw it as a connection to God and as a sign of respect to honor the deceased.

**The Old and New Testaments** Some of the most well-known stories in the Bible are associated with gold. In the book of Genesis, the utopian Garden of Eden is described as having a river laden with golden nuggets. Later, when the Three Wise Men visit Jesus at birth, they bring gifts of myrrh, frankincense and gold. There are instances in Christianity wherein gold is seen as a symbol of virtue and strength, but also times within the Bible when gold is condemned as iconoclastic. This juxtaposition is most apparent in the story of the Ten Commandments when Moses returns from the mountain and admonishes those worshipping a golden calf. Judaism shares its religious text of the Torah with parts of the **Old Testament in the Bible**. As such, those of Jewish faith also place great importance on gold's spiritual symbolism and believe it is representative of the Glory of God. In fact, there are seven different ways to say gold in Hebrew. Zahib, the most commonly used word, has a literal translation of “to shimmer.”

**Hindu Celebrations:** According to Bullion Star, “gold is central to the Hindu religion” and much of Indian culture. Many of their deities are associated with gold, which is believed to be symbol of prosperity. The Hindu God of Creation, Brahma, is even said to have been born from a golden egg. Gold is purchased and presented as a gesture of gratitude to the gods and used to sanctify special events like weddings. Traditional Indian brides wear golden jewelry on their heads, known as maangtika, and golden paayal anklets on their feet. This is thought to gain the blessing of goddess Lakshmi, bringing luck into their new marital house. According to CNN.com, so much gold is purchased for India's 20 million annual weddings, that it even sways the global markets.

**Evolution of Gold:** From sun-worshippers to brides, gold carries different symbolic meanings for its believers. While some view it as a divine sign of eternal life, others value its ritualistic purpose of carrying good fortune. What is clear is that gold's unique properties have permeated much of the world's religions and proven its importance throughout history.

*(Taken from the March/April issue of the GPAA Gold Prospectors Magazine )*



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### Ten Fun Facts About Gold

Most people buy gold strictly for investment purposes, or to have for protection against an economy such as ours in case our dollar collapses. But gold is not all about investing and protection! Believe it or not, there was actually a time when gold was fun to have and even fun to look for! However, government intervened and now it is believed to be almost a necessity to protect yourself from inflation and a flat out collapse of our country. That is why we want to show some of the fun facts about gold! Here are ten of the top 100 interesting facts about gold that you probably never knew!

10. Gold is used in window glass and astronaut helmets to reflect infrared rays while allowing sunlight to pass through, and at the same time keeping it cool.
9. Gold is chemically liquefied and injected into the muscles of thousands of rheumatoid arthritis victims in the U.S., and it is said that the treatment is successful in seven out of ten cases.
8. In every cubic mile of sea water there is 25 tons of gold! That's a total of about 10 billion tons of gold in the oceans; however, there's no known way to economically recover it.
7. Gold can be hammered into sheets so thin that a pile of them an inch high would contain more than 200,000 separate sheets.
6. A single ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire 60 miles long.
5. The largest gold nugget found in the U.S. weighed 195 pounds; it came from California.
4. Gold is so heavy that one cubic foot of it weighs half a ton.
3. A one-ounce gold nugget is more rare to find than a five-carat diamond.
2. All of the gold in the world could be compressed into an 18-yard cube, which is about 1/10 the mass of the Washington Monument.
1. Gold is said to be so rare that the world pours more steel in one hour than it has poured gold since time began.



### Miner Finds 442 Carat Diamond That May Be Worth \$18 Million

by Thomas Biesheuvel

A small diamond miner that has dug some of the world's most valuable gems from a mountainous African kingdom has found another huge stone.

Gem Diamonds Ltd. said Friday it had unearthed a 442-carat diamond at its Letseng mine in Lesotho. While it's hard to establish a price for such stones before cutters can evaluate them, it could sell for as much as \$18 million, Edward Sterck, analyst at BMO Capital Markets, wrote in a note.

Given the rarity of such large stones, demand for big diamonds has traditionally been resilient, even at times when the wider industry has struggled.

The Letseng mine is famous for the size and quality of the diamonds it produces and has the highest average selling price in the world. Two years ago Gem Diamonds found a 910-carat stone, the size of two golf balls, that sold for \$40 million.

The find comes as the global diamond industry has been brought to its knees by the pandemic. Jewelry stores have closed and India's cutting industry, which handles almost all of the world's stones, has come to a halt. The miners that dominate the industry, De Beers and Russian rival Alrosa PJSC, have seen their rough diamond sales collapse.

"The recovery of this remarkable 442 carat diamond, one of the world's largest gem quality diamonds to be recovered this year, is further confirmation of the caliber of the Letseng mine and its ability to consistently produce large, high quality diamonds," Clifford Elphick, Gem's chief executive officer, said in the statement.






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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Dec 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 <b>WMMI National Miner's Day!</b> December 5, 2020 9:00 AM 4:00 PM
6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Bill of Rights Day	16	17 Wright Brothers Day	18	19
20	21 December Solstice	22	23 GPR Club Meeting?? GPR Christmas Potluck??	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		