

# THE GOLD NUGGET

January 2021

## The Meeting for January is Cancelled!

"Due to the current covid uptick, I seriously doubt right now, that we will be getting a meeting in any time soon. This means 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."

When we are able to meet again, Club Elections will be foremost on the agenda. I have stepped down as President after 10 years at the helm. Board members J. Fortunato, J. Johnson, J. Schubert and B. Luchtenburg have also informed me of their intentions to step down as well. That leaves plenty of room for some new blood on the Board. I hope that someone of you out there is willing to step up and take the reins forward. You will have ample help getting things done and the jobs are not really very difficult.

**Notice:** The Board of Directors has approved the following for 2021: Any member who paid their dues for 2020 are paid up for 2021 and do not have to repay. If you did not pay your dues in 2020, you will need to pay for 2021. 2020 was pretty much a bust so let's hope that we can have a much better 2021.... See you all soon!

## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



Well, here we go into 2021 full speed ahead, so grab your parachute or tighten your seat belt because it has gotta be better than last year...! Let us all pray that the vaccine works, all the other measures work, and we can get back to our meetings and outings and this will all be a bad memory. I am tired of talking about Covid so that is it for this month. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year like I am.

On the gold front and interesting local news, prospector and gold hunter Harold Jay Lesser of Lesser Family Gold, located in Idaho Springs, Colorado, has informed us of some very interesting news. A year ago, he started the process to establish a Mill in Clear Creek County. Last week, he finally got all the access permits approved and issued for the Toll Mining Portion of his Mill from CDOT. That is the final step in allowing him to build the semi-trucking road to bring the ore in to process from anyone who wants him to process their ore material. In his words, "A lot of the smaller miners are now going to finally have the opportunity to have a mill available to run their material. I am soon to be the only (Legally Permitted Toll Mining Site in Colorado)," he stated. Harold's mill is operating under NewEra Mining Inc. He cites this news as a huge leap in helping the small hard rock mining community.

Colorado has been without an operating mill for ore processing for a long time. David Emslie, of Fort Collins and owner of Prospector's Gold and Gems, has also been working on a mill above Idaho Springs. Between these two gentlemen, it looks like a bright future for hardrock mining in Colorado after a very long drought. Previously, miners had to arrange for shipping their ore to faraway places out of state in order to get it processed. And that increased operating costs dramatically, cutting into potential profits from their mining efforts. I wish both men success in their operations and I see them both as a huge plus to the hard rock mining community, both large and small.

I read this week that the Kentucky Salvation Army has received not one, but two gold coins at their red kettle sites in Louisville. The coins showed up in the kettles at the Walmart at Bashford Manor. Each year, someone invariably donates one or more of these gold coins across the country. We have seen them show up in Ft. Collins and Loveland, Colorado, in the past. It is the first time the Salvation Army has received one in the Kentucky area. The coins came with notes expressing "Hope for a Blessed 2021". No news as of yet on whether there have been any additional 'donations' across the country.

The Forrest Fenn treasure saga continues so be sure and read more about that further in this newsletter. And it seems that finding treasure is getting more and more common place in the United Kingdom these days. I have added a story about that as well to illustrate how there truly are examples of great discoveries happening from time to time all over the world. Treasure hunting has become quite the sideline for far more people than one would really expect. It turns out that there were thousands of folk looking for the Fenn treasure. And if rumor can be believed, some were quite fanatical about it.



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This 'fever' is not just limited to the United States, but occurs in England, all over in Europe, in Africa and even South America. Wherever there is an old story of a robbery where the proceeds were not recovered or a gold strike where the location of the mine was subsequently lost, or a ship carrying millions in gold, silver or precious gems should sink, a treasure hunt is sure to follow. These hunts often persist for years, decades, and even centuries after the fateful event. Some events are derived from legend, some from lore, and some from incidents of known occurrence. Some are fact and some are perhaps not so factual. But from the Roman Empire, the Genghis Kahn era, the fabled Egyptian treasures, the lost South American riches, to the lost payrolls of the Confederacy and gold mines of the Old West, there is unclaimed treasure out there to be found by those willing to risk the Danger of the Hunt and the Thrill of the Chase. Who knows but maybe the next adventure and great discovery could be yours?

Anyway.... that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be! 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 (GPR) members. We are already four days into the New Year, as I compose the January edition of the V.P. Corner. I have spent more of the last four weeks prospecting and detecting from my easy chair, than I have spent outdoors actually doing them. We have had some winter weather and cold temps, but I managed to let several good days slip by for one reason or another. When the daytime temperature drops below 45 degrees, it is not unusual for me to spend a lot of chair time attempting to increase my prospecting and detecting knowledge. I have been all over the map,

subject wise, during the last month. Though I do bounce around from one aspect of prospecting and detecting to another, for some reason, this month seems to have been more diverse. Here are some of the plans that I have pondered for 2021:

- 1) Need to explore the new Nevada locations that we detected for gold nuggets last October and increase the number of days that we detect from six to ten.
- 2) Spend some time (this spring) sluicing and panning close to home.
- 3) Take a couple of days to prospect at Cache Creek, panning, sluicing, detecting.
- 4) Take a day trip to my former claim to see if can find a new spot that will give up some nice placer gold, hard work and I am not getting any younger!
- 5) A day trip to detect the mine dump that has produced several nice gold specimens over the years, Gold Monster 1000 and Gold Bug 2 country!
- 6) Spend a lot more time coin and jewelry hunting on the properties that I was granted permission to detect last year.

There are more, but I am sure you get the idea. Probably, pretty much, some of the same "ideas" that a lot of you folks have had this time of the year!! Speaking of plans, I got out of the house for a couple of hours yesterday to do some detecting at a local elementary school. I had no idea what the condition of the ground would be, but I figured it was worth a try. I had three options as far as recovering targets was concerned, pea gravel or wood chips in the playground, or the dormant grassy area of the schoolyard. The grassy area was pretty much frozen, and the batteries in my pinpointter died on the first coin that I dug. Therefore, it was pretty much down to the pea gravel and the wood chips! It was slow going, but I was doing my best to maintain a positive attitude. Then, about the time that I had things going my way, a cold wind started blowing out of the west and that was enough for me. I don't know when I will have another opportunity to get out there, I just hope that it is soon. That is about all that I have to report for this month. 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 Dec 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

THERE WAS NO BOARD MEETING FOR Nov 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 Dec 2020

1. DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THERE WAS NO Dec 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

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two young boys tilled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing up the nuts. "One for you and one for me. One for you and one for me." Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery and stopped. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you and one for me. One for you and one for me..." He knew what it was and he jumped on his bike and sprinted off, coming shortly to an old retired miner with a cane hobbling alone. "Hey mister, come quick. You won't believe what I just heard. I heard Satan and the Lord down at the cemetery dividing up the souls.!" The old miner said, "Beat it kid, it is too hard for me to walk!" But the boy insisted so the old man slowly followed him down to the cemetery. Sure enough, the old miner could hear the voices clearly saying, "One for you and one for me. One for you and one for me." He told the boy, "Wow, you weren't funnin' me at all. Let's sneak closer and see if we can see the Lord.!" They got as close as they





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could but still couldn't see the speakers. Then they heard, "One for you and one for me. Well, that's all there is here. Let's go over by the fence and get those nuts on the other side and we'll be done..!"

They say the old miner had the lead for a good half mile before the kid on the bike finally passed him...!!!

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

## **The finds of the Month 2021:**

Since we have been unable to meet since March 2020 and are unlikely to meet again this year, we will restart this event whenever we can get another meeting. So hang onto whatever you have until that day comes and we will start anew.

## **Invasive New Zealand Mudsnails Lead to Closure**

By DEBORAH SWEARINGEN Boulder

Daily Camera

Part of South Boulder Creek is closed after Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks discovered New Zealand mudsnails. The city's regular wildlife monitoring in a part of the creek near East Boulder Community Center led to the discovery of the invasive aquatic species, and Boulder has since closed the creek from South Boulder Road to Marshall Road. In addition to closing the creek, Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks also opted to put the Gebhard Integrated Site Project on hold. The project is part of an ongoing restoration effort in South Boulder Creek.

Although the snails were discovered in mid-August, city staff did not formally share

the information until Friday. However, Phillip Yates, Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks spokesperson, said the organization immediately alerted Colorado Parks and Wildlife, put up educational signage and notified local angler groups. Beyond that, OSMP needed to develop a management strategy and understand how best to work with the community to limit the spread, Yates said. "It definitely takes time to understand how we're going to manage this kind of species," he said.

According to information from the city, mudsnails are about the size of a grain of rice. One mudsnail can produce a colony of 40 million snails in a year because of their ability to rapidly reproduce through cloning. "Because they are so small, they can hitch a ride from one water body to another on everything from a dog's paw to fishing equipment, including boots and waders," a city news release states. This can make it challenging to determine where the mudsnails recently found in South Boulder Creek originally came from. "There's no way for us to really pinpoint the exact way that those were introduced," said Robert Walters, invasive species specialist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This isn't the first time Boulder's discovered mudsnails in its creeks. In fact, the first New Zealand mudsnails in Colorado were found in 2004 in the South Platte River and Boulder Creek, Walters said. While not directly harmful to humans, New Zealand mudsnails can disrupt aquatic ecosystems, harm fish populations and displace native insects. There are no practical means of removing all mudsnails, and the species can easily adapt to a wide range of aquatic ecosystems. "We might see boom and bust cycles in the population density, but it's unlikely that the population will ever completely taper off and die," Walters said. He said Colorado Parks and Wildlife and its partners are working to stop the spread of invasive species but noted it cannot be done alone. "Coloradans certainly can take an active role in stopping the spread," Walters said.

In its new release, Boulder offered a number of steps people can take, including:

- Avoid accessing streams or creek areas where mudsnails have been found. If fishing in an affected area, use a wire brush to remove mud and vegetation from boots and gear immediately after stepping back onto dry ground.
- If dogs go into the water, brush their paws and bellies on dry land.
- Do not flush water used to clean boots or rinse equipment down storm drains.
- Before returning home or entering another body of water, take precautionary steps, including freezing boots and gear overnight, soaking equipment in hot water, submerging waders and other equipment in solution specified by CPW or drying boots and gear, preferably in direct sunlight, for at least 48 hours.

While the creek is closed, OSMP intends to assess the situation and may decide to begin additional measures or further restrict creek access. Year-round mudsnail closures already are in effect for portions of Dry Creek and Boulder Creek.

*(I found this interesting in that knowing the affinity of Boulderites for getting around, it would not surprise me if some of the kids who were tubing and playing in the water, picked up some of this stuff and spread it to other watersheds such as Clear Creek. We all know how they love to tube and raft above Golden. This is a reminder to all us prospectors to be sure we*





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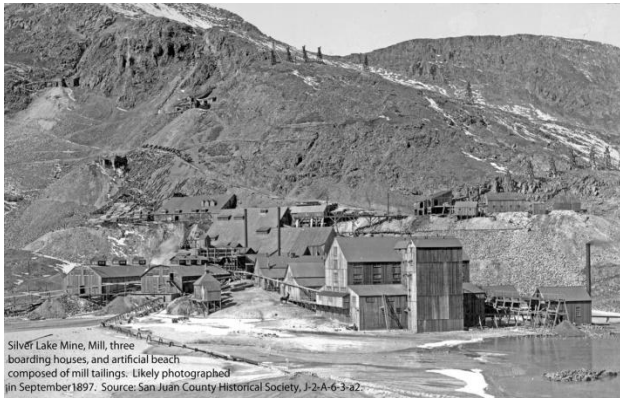
*properly clean and air-dry all of our equipment before changing locations from one creek to another. Let's be part of the solution, not part of the pollution...!!! Pres. JJJ)*

## Silver Lake Basin: A Colorado Mining Chronicle

(Part 2)

### The Stoiber Era

In the Las Animas District, the key mining outfits that managed to survive the 1882 recession were among the first to boom in response to the positive climate of 1890, and several of these resided in Silver Lake Basin. What followed laid the groundwork for that small area to become one of the most advanced centers of mining technology in Colorado. While the Iowa was a confirmed bonanza, developments on the Silver Lake claims a short distance north soon overshadowed



Silver Lake Mine, Mill, three boarding houses, and artificial beach composed of mill tailings. Likely photographed in September 1897. Source: San Juan County Historical Society, J-2-A-6-3-a2.

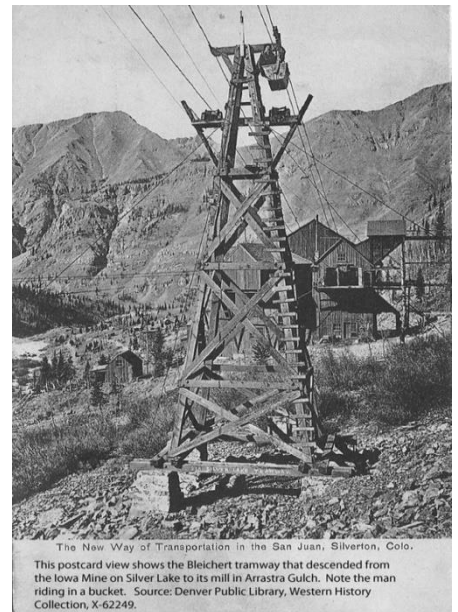
Robin and Thayer's relatively simple operation. Sometime after 1885, Edward George Stoiber and Gustavus H. Stoiber apparently purchased the Silver Lake Mine from John Reed and John Collins. After running the Stoiber Brothers Sampling Works on the northwest edge of Silverton for four years, the owners had a significant disagreement in 1887 and divided their mutual assets. Gustavus assumed the sampler and Edward, the Silver Lake claims, which numbered two hundred. Gustavus' choice was safer because the works provided a reliable source of income, whereas Edward based his decision on the belief the mine would afford great rewards for its high risk. After Edward took control of the Silver Lake property, he spent two years examining the geological

features contained in the Whale, Silver Lake, and Round Mountain claims; conducting assays; staking more claims with the aid of his new wife, Lena; and calculating the optimal manner of development. Unlike most mine owners, Edward took a primary interest in the bountiful low-grade ore and considered the high-grade a bonus. However, he faced the problem that the costs of shipping inferior payrock out of the basin and processing it at the sampling works would exceed returns. Stoiber realized that if he could mine and concentrate the ore in large volumes with a highly efficient system, economies of scale would render the low-quality material profitable at a nominal cost per ton. By 1890, at the age of only 35, the German engineer had designed a plan. During the late spring of that year, when Silver Lake Basin's snow blockade consolidated, a small army of workers with mule trains packed in thousands of board feet of lumber, tons of construction hardware and bricks, and the basic necessities of life to Stoiber's mine. There, at lake level, far above timberline at an elevation of 12,250 feet, they assembled the largest surface plant and mill yet in the Las Animas Mining District. Mules drew ore cars on rails from the mine's underground stations to the mill, the first built at that altitude. A new story-and-a-half boarding house accommodated a crew of fifty. Workers manipulated heavy timbers for a stout tunnel house that would enclose a blacksmith shop for sharpening drill steels, which miners dulled on a daily basis, in addition to carpentry and machine shops. Laborers at this original Silver Lake Mill, adjacent to the mine on the northwest side of the lake, first separated out the larger, heavier pieces of solid "shipping ore." Then from pulverizing the rest of the low-grade product, they generated fifty tons of concentrates per day, which translated into five railroad cars of freight and provided Stoiber his economy of scale. Constructed on at least three stair-step terraces, the mill used gravity, with the aid of water pumped from the adjacent lake, to draw the material through treatment, after which workers dried the slurry and sacked it for shipment. Half the value of the output came from gold and the remainder, from silver, lead, and copper. Stoiber implemented several innovations that set his mill apart from others in the area. Its enclosed coal-fired power plant created enough steam to heat that structure as well as the boarding house. Also, a flume carried at least 500,000 tons of piped mill tailings directly into Silver Lake's north end, creating an artificial beach and a long peninsula that separated the northern and southern lake portions. Unfortunately, this operation, along with those of the mine's neighbors, killed the aquatic life. Around 1891 Edward Stoiber built his own AC power plant, evidently the second in the state, down on the Animas River. Power lines transported electricity two miles, too far for DC (direct current), up to his property at Silver Lake Basin. This facility lit the remote building interiors and ran, to perfection, some small motors in the mill. Also, over the course of the summer, muleskinners hauled up supplies and coal so the mine and mill could run through the winter. The Silver Lake Mines Company reported 1891 revenues of \$254,908 (about \$6,800,000 in 2015) to the United States Mint; it constituted approximately twenty-five percent of the total production of San Juan County. Of course, the company's heavy expenses offset much of this total, resulting in a smaller profit figure. After two successful years of mining and milling, Edward



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Stoiber expanded operations in 1893. Lena, the company's personnel manager, increased the workforce to 130 and had her husband build a second boarding house, which provided amenities heretofore unseen in the Las Animas Mining District. These included a dining hall, a kitchen equipped with a brick oven, and a water tower suspended in the rafters. Thus the building offered running hot and cold water as well as flush toilets, and steam radiators furnished heat. But that year the Colorado mining economic climate worsened. The Panic of 1893 prompted Congress to repeal the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, causing the Silver Crash of that year, and as a result, almost every mining company in the Las Animas District closed. Most of the mines that continued operating from the early 1890s into the ensuing depression, including the Iowa and the Silver Lake, were proven gold producers. Edward Stoiber, along with a handful of other mine owners, responded to the Crash not by curtailing operations but by taking the opposite approach. They poured capital into underground development, mechanization, and mill improvements on a scale the county had not yet seen. Their purpose was to extract and concentrate product in economies of scale great enough to dramatically reduce the cost per ton, rendering low-value ores profitable to mine even during the financial decline. Meanwhile at the Iowa, in 1893 Edward's Stoiber's brother, Gustavus, joined Robin, Thayer, and two more investors, H. W. King and R. W. Watson, in organizing the Iowa Gold Mining and Milling Company to labor at that Silver Lake Basin property. This consolidation made the Iowa second only to the Silver Lake in terms of implementing economies of scale, and an enlarged workforce drove two adits into the vein system in order to work it simultaneously at different levels. Edward Stoiber built a second AC power plant on the Animas River, which also furnished current to his brother's Iowa Mine, in 1894. Waterwheels ran dynamos to generate electricity for hoisting and pumping and for lighting the remote mines and buildings. At the same time, at the Iowa, Gustavus installed the most advanced compressed-air system in the Las Animas District, which provided energy to the piston rock-drills at that mine and, later, the Silver Lake. Gustavus convinced the U.S. Postal Service to locate the misspelled Arastra Post Office at the Iowa in 1895, while Edward housed most of the combined workforce at the Silver Lake. During this period, the two Stoiber holdings ranked among the greatest producers in the region, thanks to the owners' work ethic and, equally important, their frugality. They paid close attention to operating costs and squeezed efficiency at each opportunity. The brothers' great success depended on a coordinated effort, which brought about reconciliation. Edward and Lena became two of the largest stockholders in the Iowa company. Edward Stoiber's Silver Lake Mine boasted ten miles of underground passages at numerous adit levels to work the vertical veins simultaneously at different elevations, creating an ore factory that yielded silver, gold, lead, copper, and zinc. A central internal shaft linked the various levels. Although his venture earned a profit, Edward realized the need for a more efficient process. Workers could access his mine solely by a steep, mile-long trail that only mules could travel. So in 1895 he contracted with William M. Frey to construct an 8,640-foot Bleichert double-rope, gravity-drawn tramway, capable of moving five tons of crude ore and concentrates per hour from his mine to a shipping terminal he'd built earlier partway down Arrastra Gulch. Once completed, this tram segment attracted notice for its long spans, one of which stretched almost 2,200 feet across a snowslide area. In 1896, with a labor force of 125, Gustavus Stoiber, Robin, and the other Iowa investors made significant progress toward building an empire as large as Edward's Silver Lake. The partnership hired the Trenton Iron Works to construct its own Bleichert tramway. It ran parallel to the Silver Lake line, terminating at a concentration mill constructed the previous year at timberline in Arrastra Gulch, a mile or so up from the Animas River. The same year, the party gained advantage when it purchased the Tiger Mining & Milling Company, which had just begun work on the Royal Tiger Mine, the operation directly across Silver Lake from the Iowa on the lake's east side. That group had done little with the property because it could not bear the development costs and was eager to sell. Like the Iowa, it yielded mainly lead. Once Gustavus and Robin had erected a surface plant and boarding house there, they invested in underground expansion and increased production.



The New Way of Transportation in the San Juan, Silverton, Colo.  
This postcard view shows the Bleichert tramway that descended from the Iowa Mine on Silver Lake to its mill in Arrastra Gulch. Note the man riding in a bucket. Source: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, X-62249.

**Part 3 to be continued next month...**



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### Weeding Leads to Archaeological Finds

A SECRET stash of gold coins dating back to King Henry VIII's reign have been found in an English garden. Experts think a priest could have hidden the coins back in the 1540s. Some of the coins date back to the 1400s. The treasure was unearthed when a family was weeding their garden in the New Forest district of Hampshire. Some of the coins date back to the 1400s and some show depictions of the infamous Henry VIII and King Edward IV. King Henry VIII reigned over



England from 1509 till 1547 when he died. The stash contains 63 gold coins and one silver coin that were minted over a period of 100 years. The coins will be looked after by the British Museum. The stash featured 63 gold coins and one silver coin. It's likely they were being used as currency in the late 15th to the 16th centuries before being buried for safekeeping. Four of the rare gold coins depicting Henry VIII also have the initials of three of his wives inscribed on them. The initials seem to stand for his first three wives Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour. It seems that Henry VIII wanted to put the initials of whoever his wife was at the time on his coins but stopped this practice after Jane. Henry famously divorced Catherine, beheaded Anne and lost Jane when she died after giving birth to their son. Jane Seymour died 12 days after her son was born and Henry was said to be devastated. The family who found the treasure contacted the British Museum because of its Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) that works with people in

the UK who find important artefacts. The British Museum said in a statement: "63 gold coins and 1 silver coin of Edward IV through to Henry VIII, and deposited in about 1540, were uncovered in the New Forest area, Hampshire as the finders pulled out weeds in their garden. "Ranging across nearly a century, dating from the late 15th to early 16th centuries, the hoard includes four coins from Henry VIII's reign, unusually featuring the initials of his wives Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour. "The total value of the coins far exceeds the average annual wage in the Tudor period, but it is not yet clear whether this was a saving hoard which was regularly deposited into or if the coins were buried all at once." Barrie Cook, a curator of medieval and early modern coins at the British Museum, told *The Guardian* that the value of the coins was around £24 in the Tudor period. That equates to \$18,600 (£14,000) today. However, they're now considered priceless and invaluable artefacts. Experts think a merchant or clergy member buried the coins when they were trying to hide their wealth. The golden coins are just one of 47,000 finds documented by the PAS this year.

### ID of Man who Found Fenn Treasure is Revealed

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A grandson of Forrest Fenn has confirmed that a medical school student from Michigan found a more than \$1 million treasure chest that the retired art and antiquities dealer stashed in the wilds of Wyoming more than a decade ago. Jonathan "Jack" Stuef, 32, found the treasure in June, Fenn grandson Shiloh Forrest Old posted Monday on a website dedicated to the treasure. "We wish Jack the best of luck, and we hope that the searching community will treat him with the respect that he deserves," Old wrote. Fenn, who was also a decorated U.S. Air Force fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, left clues to finding the treasure in a poem in a memoir entitled "The Thrill of the Chase." Fenn at the time said he hid the chest filled with coins, gold nuggets and other valuables estimated in value at \$1 million to \$3 million in the Rocky Mountains north of Santa Fe in either Colorado, Montana, New Mexico or Wyoming.

The poem inspired many to go treasure hunting — sometimes getting into precarious situations in the unforgiving Rocky Mountain backcountry. Fenn said repeatedly the treasure wasn't in a dangerous or especially hard-to-reach place but at least four people died searching for the chest. Many others needed rescue, including a man who rappelled into the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone in winter. Fenn announced June 6 that the treasure had been found but did not say who found it or where. He said in July the treasure was found in Wyoming and died in September at age 90 without identifying the finder. Stuef, meanwhile, initially remained anonymous in a *Medium* article published in September in which he described finding the treasure but not specifically how or where. The article on Monday identified Stuef as the author. A court order in a federal lawsuit against the Fenn estate prompted Stuef to identify himself to writer Daniel Barbarisi, who had been in touch with Stuef for a book he has been working on. Barbarisi identified Stuef in an article published Monday in *Outside Magazine* and wrote that Stuef became obsessed with the treasure after learning about its existence in 2018. "I think I got a little embarrassed by how obsessed I was with it," Barbarisi quoted Stuef as saying. "If I didn't find it, I



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would look kind of like an idiot. And maybe I didn't want to admit to myself what a hold it had on me." Fenn's grandson, Old, also cited the lawsuit as a reason for confirming Stuef's identity. In the lawsuit, a woman who believed the treasure was hidden in New Mexico claims the finder succeeded by hacking her texts and emails, Barbarisi wrote. Stuef denied the allegations, saying he never met nor heard of the woman before the lawsuit and the treasure was nowhere near New Mexico, Barbarisi wrote. Stuef didn't return a phone message left Monday by The Associated Press seeking comment on finding the treasure.

## Types of Gold Placers

The natural processes of erosion result in a variety of different ways that gold will concentrate in the natural environment. Depending on how they were formed, placer deposits are given different classifications. Below are some common placers commonly associated with gold deposition. **Alluvial Placers-** these gold deposits are the most commonly found throughout the Western U.S. and were typically the first deposits that were exploited by the early day gold miners. They are gold concentrated by streams and rivers, typically consisting of paystreaks on the inside bends of flowing waterways. For the most part, in the United States these deposits have been worked out on a commercial scale, with the exception of Alaska and a few other remote locations. Alluvial deposits are rejuvenated constantly to a small extent, and are some of the most popularly mined areas worked by recreational prospectors.



**Eluvial Placers-** these placers are generally consistent of deposits that form downhill of the original lode source. The forces of gravity and downhill creep move material downslope, generally concentrating heavier and larger concentrates toward to base of the exposure. The extent and spread of eluvial placers can vary greatly. The main lode source can commonly be located, but in some instances the entire lode deposits has weathered away, leaving behind only the eluvial deposition.

**Bench Deposits-** these are generally remnants of other ancient placers. These were typically alluvial placers at one time, but they were left "high and dry" by the down-cutting of a river system or the raising of mountains over millions of years. In California and other areas, these deposits were commonly processed using **hydraulic mining**.

**Residual Placers-** the continuous erosional effect on a gold outcrop will result in the deposition of gold in the nearby vicinity. Lighter materials will be taken away by wind and rain, leaving the heavy mineral concentration. Although these placers are generally not extensive enough to attract commercial mining endeavors, they can be a very productive for the individual prospector using a metal detector to find gold.

**Beach Placers-** fine gold deposits can be found along the beach sands in many locations throughout the world. Two well-known areas in the United States include the rich deposits of **Nome, Alaska** and the beaches of **Southern Oregon**. Gold is either carried to the ocean by rivers and creeks from nearby sources, or eroded directly from wave action along the beaches. These deposits can often be found directly along the shoreline and along ancient shores well above current sea level. These deposits generally contain fine gold. (Also read about **gold in the ocean**).

**Glacial Deposits-** these placer deposits are formed by glacial movement, transporting gold bearing gravel from different sources and depositing them elsewhere. Glacial gold deposits are very well known throughout the Midwest and Northeastern U.S. They are almost always characteristic of very fine gold that has been pulverized by glacial action. Although widespread, these deposits are generally small and not economically viable for commercial mining endeavors.

**Eolian Placers-** typically found in arid regions, natural erosive processes (wind) cause sand and other light materials to blow away, exposing heavier minerals, essentially exposing the vein by eroding lighter material from around them. Although these can be rich sources, the spotty distribution of gold is generally not workable on a commercial scale. Patch hunters using metal detectors can often work eolian placers very efficiently.






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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 2021**

(**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 National Freedom Day	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16 Mardi Gras	17 GPR Club Meeting??	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						