

# THE GOLD NUGGET

March 2021

## The Meeting for March is Cancelled!

"Though the vaccines are out and lots of folks have been getting it, the primary sticking point in getting our meetings back underway remains the 'social distancing' aspect. Until the State Health Department cancels the required 6-foot rule, we cannot get more than 40 people into the Clements Center. And that includes their Staff of one or two. This is where we stand for the moment and until that single sticking point gets relief, I do not see us getting the meetings going again. That is the most recent information I have for all of you!

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 all that 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



Right now, the only thing preventing us from getting our meetings back together is simply the mandate by the Governor and the State Health Department requiring the 6-foot distancing. As soon as they drop the 6-foot requirement, we are back in business. I cannot even hazard a wild guess as to when that will happen. But things do seem to be moving rapidly along, just as I said it would back in October of 2020. So, it is what it is and it is completely out of our hands. I know that it is hard to fathom, but patience will win out.

Speaking of patience, prospecting for gold requires a lot of patience. In order to be a good prospector, or at least a successful one, you need to learn from those who have gone before you. We take all that we can glean from them, practice those techniques literally to perfection, refine or make whatever changes to improve your recovery and values, and get all that gold that we can. I heard someone say once that you don't have to be in a Club to be a prospector, and not all prospectors prospect for gold. But the qualities that make one successful are pretty much universal. Having access to private property or public property for prospecting is also quite universally important to any prospector. Of course, I believe that the true value of our Club is in the fact that our membership is very diverse from young to elder, male and female, and there has never been any exclusion for any reason. If you are human and want to find gold, our members will pitch in and help the newer ones to find it. That is what it is all about.

In our Club, we have some extremely good prospectors who have amazing skill levels that do not hesitate to help out the new folks. And that willingness often means that the experienced prospectors will forego their opportunity at getting gold in order to help the newer folks learn how and to get their own gold. It reminds me of the old famous adage that says 'It isn't so much the having of the gold, as it is in the finding of the gold!' And I have found that as I get older, that has certainly become more and more true for me as well. I know a number of 'experienced prospectors who do much the same thing. As your President, sometime back, I consciously made that decision to spend more time helping other folks and hopefully instilling into them that joy of finding their first gold and learning how to find it time and time again. I have had that joy of finding good amounts of gold and finding a decent amount of it. My thirst has been quenched somewhat, and I am not a greedy person so that need to be fully sated has abated. Don't misunderstand me when I say that. I still like finding that yellow gift from the stars and knowing that I am the first and only human being to ever lay eyes on what I have found. I am sorry, but that is a feeling that you never really ever get over. That is the true 'gold fever' that afflicts us all. That is the feeling that I want everyone to experience. There is nothing like it. Greed is something completely different. I am happy to report that that trait is not present in our Club. Not to say that we haven't experienced it, we certainly have. But those folks were weeded out long ago.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

That willingness to help others find that joy and to learn the skills is the key to the growth of our Club. I want to help our Club to grow our membership. I want to help all of our members, young and old, to enjoy prospecting. I think that is why our Club has been more successful than the other Clubs in our area. That is why we have worked so hard with the help of others to preserve some of these public access areas like Cache Creek, Arapaho Bar, and Clear Creek Canyon. It is why I am always on the lookout for parcels of private property that is within reasonable reach of the Denver area. It is my opinion that we have helped to bring the most people into prospecting of any like Club on the Front Range. And though this pandemic has brought us to a halt, I see this set back as only temporary.

I am often reminded by those who came before us, who worked very hard to build this Club into the type of Club that it is today. Who recognized the need for teaching and who set aside their personal searches to help others learn how to prospect. Those were the men and women who determined the future path of this Club and from whom I inherited that job and responsibility. I hope they have not been disappointed in my efforts to preserve their dreams and goals. I hope that I have been helpful to all the new folks who had that desire to learn and to experience the joy of success.

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



Today is Saturday February 27, 2021. By now, most of our members know that Gold-N-Detectors has closed. This is sad news for all of us that have relied on them for our prospecting and metal detecting needs over the years. Bill Chapman started that business, and poured himself into that endeavor for a lot of years. In recent years, I often wondered how long it would be before he decided it was time to step away and spend more time detecting. When Louise Smyth purchased the business, I thought the future of

Gold-N-Detectors was set for a long while. Sadly, when Louise passed away, unexpectedly, things changed. Bill soldiered on, but he was in a tough situation and apparently had little or no control over the future direction of the business. It looks like someone with a similar business has purchased Gold-N-Detectors and plans to reopen at the same location. I hope that things work out well for everyone, the new owners, the prospectors and detectorists, but most of all, for Bill Chapman. Bill, you provided the tools and the training that helped us to become more successful than we would have been without you!!! There are probably more success stories about prospecting and detecting connected to Gold-N-Detectors than we could imagine. They say, "a picture is worth a thousand words". Here is a picture that I didn't even know existed, until just recently. This picture was sent to me by Toni, the gal that I wrote about in last month's newsletter. This is a solid "one-ounce "gold nugget. It is one, of a number of nuggets (49) that I unearthed during a two-week trip to Alaska in 2012. The nugget in the picture and forty-eight others were found with my first metal detector. A Whites MXT, purchased at Gold-N-Detectors in October 2003 and tutored by Bill Chapman.... Thanks Bill !!! That is about all for this month's edition.... 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 2020 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 Feb 2021

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 Feb 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 Feb 2021

1. DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THERE WAS NO Feb MEETING.
2. I am hoping that with a vaccine now, we will start seeing a turn around and be able to meet again by June of 2021 for sure. Club Elections have been 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

Women often receive warnings about protecting themselves at the mall and in dark parking lots, etc. This is the first warning I have seen for men. I wanted to pass it on in case you haven't heard about it.

A 'heads up' for those retired old miners who may be regular customers at Lowe's, Home Depot, Costco, or even Wal-Mart. This one caught me totally by surprise. Over the last couple of month, I became a victim of a clever scam while out shopping. Simply going out to get supplies has turned out to be quite traumatic.

Don't be naive enough to think it couldn't happen to you or your friends.

Here's how the scam works: Two nice looking, college-age girls will come over to your car or truck as you are packing your purchases into your vehicle. They both start wiping your windshield with a rag and Windex, while wearing very skimpy shorts and very skimpy T-shirts. (It's impossible not to look). When you thank them and offer them a tip, they say 'No' but instead ask for a ride to McDonald's. You agree and they climb into the vehicle. On the way, they start undressing. Then one of them starts crawling all over you, while the other one steals your wallet. I had my wallet stolen





## **Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4**

Sept. 4th, 9th, 10th, twice on the 15th, again on the 17th, 20th, 24th, and the 29th. Also Oct. 1st, 4th, 8th, twice on the 16th & 17th, and very likely, again this upcoming weekend.

So tell your friends to be careful. What a horrible way to take advantage of us older retired miners. Warn your friends to be vigilant.

By the way, Wal-Mart has wallets on sale for \$2.99 each. I found even cheaper ones for \$.99 at the Dollar Store. Also, you never get to eat at McDonald's. I've already lost 11 pounds just running back and forth from Lowe's, to Home Depot, to Wal-Mart.

*(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.

## **Pegleg's Lost Gold Mine in Colorado**

**Rare Gold Nuggets** July 18, 2015 Lost Treasures, Recent Posts

There are many who dismiss this story of this mine as the figment of a boozy old miner's imagination – a fellow who would tell his story to anybody who was willing to pay for his drinks. But still, just like all lost gold legends, the “what if it's real” factor keeps a lot of people interested and searching for it.

Just like most of the lost gold legends, the story of Thomas “Pegleg” Smith has a few different versions. By all accounts, Pegleg Smith was a rather unsavory character who wasn't averse to horse rustling if he thought he could get away with it, along with beaver trapping and fur trading. While trapping in 1827 he took an Indian arrow in the leg, and after losing the leg to the subsequent infection, his friends made a wooden leg for him, thus his nickname.

After a successful trapping expedition on the Colorado River during the early 1830s, Pegleg and one other person in his group left the main party to deliver the pelts for sale in Los Angeles. While crossing the desert Pegleg supposedly found some heavy black pebbles in the Colorado Desert on the top of one of three buttes.

Who knows what possessed him to climb to the top of the butte, maybe to get his bearings, but the three buttes figure into the legend as an important landmark. He thought the pebbles were most likely copper and took them back to Los Angeles with him. At some point, they were determined to actually be gold instead of copper. The black covering them was likely iron staining that is common of many desert gold deposits.

Supposedly, Pegleg started a fight in a Los Angeles saloon while he was drunk, and the local authorities threw him out of town. Not to be bested, he stole several hundred horses with the intent of driving them to Taos, New Mexico, figuring he could sell them there and make a tidy profit.

Perhaps he figured he'd better mend his ways before he got hung, and he settled in Idaho along the Oregon Trail. He built up a trading post and specialized in – you guessed it – selling horses.

### **The Search for the Lost Mine**

It is unclear why he hadn't gone back to look for the butte until after 1849, but after the gold rush he headed back to California intending to get up a party of prospectors to relocate his find. While the party was wandering around in the desert, Pegleg deserted his comrades and headed back to California. He decided to have another go at it in 1853 with another bunch of prospectors, but he had no better luck this time.

You would think people would have been a bit leery by this time of following a guy with this reputation anywhere, but the lure of gold is a powerful one.

### **Various Different Tales**

The different versions of the story head off in several directions at this point. The Chocolate Mountains are considered by some to be the source of the black nuggets, rather than the Colorado Desert. Another tale suggests that a former soldier heading from Yuma to L.A. located the three buttes, and the nuggets. Putting together an expeditionary party to go out and bring more gold back, they headed out but did not return. Below the San Ysidro Mountains, the prospectors were found dead.



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Another version has a prospector finding the three buttes, filling up his saddlebags with gold worth \$7,000 and heading to Los Angeles with it. He subsequently became ill and was cared for by a Dr. DeCourcy. After telling the doctor of his find, they determined to go back as soon as he had recovered and recover further gold. But he never did recover, and died before he could return. Even though he hunted for the three buttes for many years, Dr. DeCourcy never located them.

The Indians had several of their own versions of the desert gold. In one legend, there was an area covered with gold, but as it was forbidden by tribal law to divulge the location, that secret was never revealed. Another legend tells of an Indian woman lost in the desert. After trying to get a fix on her location by climbing one of the three buttes, she found black pebbles at the top. From the top, she could see a railroad camp, and she made her way to it where she was restored with food and water. She gave the workers one of the pebbles before she went on. This one doesn't seem especially plausible, since you would think the construction workers would have hightailed it up the butte to see what they could find, after determining that the pebbles were in fact gold.

The third legend involving an Indian concerns a Yaqui who lived near Warner's Ranch. He would make a journey into the desert when he was short of money, and returned with black pebbles each time. Supposedly, no one was ever able to track him in order to discover his secret. The Indian was subsequently killed in a fight, and after his death thousands of dollars' worth of "black pebble", gold nuggets were found in his bed.

You would think with a significant landmark like three buttes to look for, this find would have been discovered long ago if it in fact existed. But until there is evidence to the contrary, Pegleg Smith's fortune continues to be considered lost.

## Colorado Gold Prospecting Locations

Rare Gold Nuggets April 19, 2015

### The Gold Rush to Colorado

As with nearly all of the gold rushes throughout the western United States, it was placer deposits that were the first indicators of gold in Colorado. The now famous Pike's Peak Gold Rush has an interesting history, because gold was actually discovered in this part of Colorado almost a decade before the gold rush started.

The first documented gold discoveries were actually way back in 1849, by prospectors heading to the recently discovered gold country of northern California. Although small amounts of gold were panned from the South Platte River, almost no serious attention was given to the area. With the excitement of the seemingly limitless gold mining opportunities in California, prospectors quickly moved westward to seek their fortune.

The gold deposits in Colorado sat dormant and unworked for nearly a decade.

It wasn't until 1858, when prospectors mining in the area began to learn about the richness of the area. By the start of 1859, there were believed to be over 1,000 men in the area, exploring the surrounding creeks and rivers.

And they began finding gold. A lot of gold.

### Prospecting to Mining

During these earliest days of the gold rush, it was the placers that were worked almost extensively, and miners used simple ground sluicing methods to recover placer gold from the bedrock.

It was soon discovered that much of the area around present day Denver in central Colorado was exceptionally rich. In Boulder County, the Gold Hill/Sugarloaf mining district is noteworthy. Most of the production from this area was from later lode mining activity.

Clear Creek County was a major gold and silver producer. Notable mining districts include the Idaho Springs district, Alice district, Empire district, and Freeland district.

The Ground Hog Mine near Red Cliff in Eagle County is known for producing some rare crystalline gold specimens. In addition to gold, there county is exceptionally rich in silver.

Gold can be found in Gilpin County within the Central City district and Northern Gilpin District.

In Lake County, placer gold can be found in the Arkansas River. Placer gold can also be found in Box Creek and Lake Creek. Some of these areas were worked with bucket line dredges and mining evidence can still be found in these areas.





## **Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6**

Some of the earliest gold discoveries were made in Park County, Colorado. Mining has taken place here ever since, and millions of dollars in precious metals have been extracted. The Alma district, Fairplay district, and Tarryall district were all quite rich, and the creeks within these areas contain gold that can often be found by gold panning and sluicing.

Summit County is a fantastic area for gold prospectors to search for gold, especially because the majority of the gold in this county has been recorded as being placers. The Breckenridge and Tenmile mining districts are of special note.

Teller County was overlooked for many years during the early gold rush to Colorado. It was not the gold dust or nuggets that eventually attracted miners to this area, but rather the rich telluride ores that were discovered here. Cripple Creek is the richest area here, and the region is actually responsible for some of Colorado's richest mineral wealth.

### **A few tips for Colorado gold prospectors**

Although there have been millions of ounces of gold mined in Colorado, the vast majority of the gold found here is either in hard rock ore deposits, or are found in the form of very fine flour gold, dust, and fine flakes of gold.

Gold nuggets are occasionally found, but the VAST majority of gold is quite small in size. Keep this in mind when prospecting. If you are using a metal detector, make sure you are using an extra sensitive gold detector like the Garrett AT Gold or other VLF detector that can detect small gold.

Placer mining methods should also be used that are set up properly to retain fine gold. Many prospectors take advantage of newer equipment like the Gold Cube to help capture these fine gold deposits. Careful panning technique will also help you to retain the most gold possible from the gold bearing creeks and rivers in Colorado.

## **Colorado Rivers with Gold**

### Arkansas River

A considerable amount of placer gold has been found in the Arkansas River. Two major gold strikes were made on tributaries to the Arkansas River at Iowa Gulch and California Gulch. These discoveries overshadowed some of the mining done in the Arkansas River, but there is good placer gold there too.

### Taylor River

Gold was found in the Taylor River in Gunnison County dating back as early as 1861. Search within the Tincup District. This is mainly a lode mining area but some gold can be panned from the river here.

### Animas River

You can find gold in the Animas River near Durango. Rumors of Spanish explorers mining in this area date back to the 1700s, but it was the later discoveries made in the La Plata Mountains that really attracted interest to the area.

### Plata River

Some gold can be panned in the Plata River. There was a lot of mining in this area, but much of the gold was locked up in telluride ores that require special techniques to release the gold from host rock.

### Uncomphagre River

Gold was discovered at the headwaters of Umcomphagre River. The town of Ouray was the richest area. Ores containing gold, silver, and lead were mined here. Some very high-grade free-milling gold has mined in Ouray and placers can be found in the river.

### South Platte River

The South Platte River drains some of Colorado's famous mining districts. The mines at Fairplay, Tarryall, and Alma all source gold that you will find in the river. Some of the richest placers were found near the headwaters at the North Star Mountain.

### Blue River

Considerable gold was mined from the Blue River near Breckenridge. The surrounding mines were the source for the rich placers that were mined here. It is estimated that nearly 1 million ounces of gold were mined from this area.

### The Colorado River

Gold in small amounts can be panned from the Colorado River. It is primarily placer gold and is not in great abundance, but it is there.



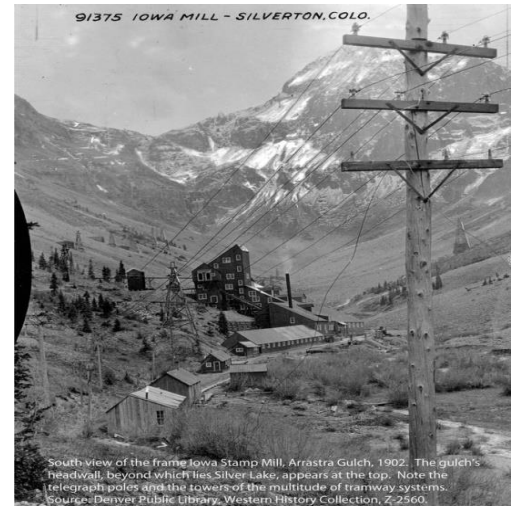
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### Yampa River

Gold has also been found in the Yampa River and some of the smaller streams that feed it. Primarily placer in nature, there was considerable mining in the past and continues today.

### **The Silver Basin:** A Colorado Chronicle (Part 4) **Subsequent Progress and Decline**

Unfortunately the Guggenheims lacked the personal interest and purity of motive Edward Stoiber possessed. Furthermore, within three months of the sale, the principal vein at the Silver Lake pinched out, leaving the costly operation with much less payrock than the new owners had supposed. Whether Stoiber knew the situation before the sale remains uncertain. The new manager directed his miners to extract existing ore and drive new exploratory workings in search of the lost vein and others. These undertakings succeeded, exonerating Stoiber. Nevertheless, through 1902 the crew squeezed out just 260 tons of product per day, approximately one quarter of the new mill's capacity. In 1903 the Guggenheim company merged with the giant American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO), which some of the nation's most powerful smelter men had organized in 1899. The combined entity controlled Edward Stoiber's Silver Lake empire and operated it to both exploit the mine's profitability and provide a source of ore for its Durango Smelter. But in October 1904 a blaze destroyed the tramway's turning station above the Iowa Mill, pulling over a number of towers on the Silver Lake and Unity segments, and, in the process, dropping all their buckets. The accident resulted in halting the entire operation. The domain's manager, Rowland Cox, could have brought the old mill at Silver Lake Basin back online but declined to do so.



91375 IOWA MILL - SILVERTON, COLO.  
South view of the frame Iowa Stamp Mill, Arrastra Gulch, 1902. The gulch's headwall, beyond which lies Silver Lake, appears at the top. Note the telegraph poles and the towers of the multitude of tramway systems. Source: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, Z.2560.

H. A. Guess, mill assayer, replaced Cox in 1905 and returned the Silver Lake Mine to full production. But April 20, 1906, an arsonist set fire to the new Silver Lake Mill on the Animas River, causing \$250,000 in damage and destroying, as well, the lower tramway terminal. Guess ordered a second suspension of operations at the mine. On April 21, the day after the mill burned, at the age of 51, Edward Stoiber died of typhoid fever while on vacation with Lena in Paris. Later that year ASARCO initiated construction of a much smaller replacement mill on the same site and workers completed it in 1907.

But then another national recession struck. The company closed its new facility in 1908 and leased out blocks of ground at the Silver Lake to small parties instead of working the mine itself. Over the next few years, a number of natural calamities took a toll. In 1909 the Silver Lake tramway's turning station burned again and wrecked the system. Then in 1911 a series of avalanches took out towers on both the Silver Lake and Iowa tramways and started a fire at a transformer station. In 1912 another blaze that started at the Silver Lake's blacksmith shop destroyed the upper tramway terminal in addition to virtually all the property's buildings, except one of the boarding houses. As a result, the corporation gave up large-scale production but continued to farm out blocks of ground to small groups. Ironically, in contrast to Edward and Lena Stoiber, ASARCO never earned a profit from the Silver Lake, although the company employed competent engineers. Meanwhile, during the early 1900s the Iowa Gold Mining & Milling Company, second- largest outfit in the Las Animas



Iowa Mine on the left, Silver Lake Mine on the right, taken around 1900 from the Royal Tiger Mine on the east bank of Silver Lake. Round Mountain sits in the background. Source: San Juan County Historical Society, J-2-C-5-20-a.

Mining District and one of the county's most profitable, experienced misfortunes that rivaled those at the Silver Lake. Gustavus Stoiber and James Robin discovered that the main problem with chiseling out ore in economies of scale was that a mine's life was relatively short, since its reserves were limited. By 1901, after only six years of intensive mining, the Iowa showed signs of exhaustion, in contrast to more than fourteen at the Silver Lake. In response, the Iowa's owners pursued an aggressive exploration and development campaign. But when that plan failed, they halted mill and tramway operations and leased out both the Iowa and Royal Tiger while seeking a buyer. Because of the meager output from both properties, no one, including the Guggenheims, seriously considered purchasing the complex. Although in 1902 miners working for Al Kunkle, lessee of the



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Royal Tiger, struck a new vein rich in gold and silver and over five feet wide, it lasted only a year before giving out. Consequently he, followed by the lessees at the Iowa, moved on to other endeavors.

The stress of the Iowa's rapid failure proved too much for the owners. James Robin shot himself in 1903. Two years later, an avalanche wrecked a significant portion of the Iowa Mill and soon after, Gustavus Stoiber died of a massive stroke. After these tragedies, Stoiber's and Robin's inheritors abandoned hopes the Iowa and Royal Tiger real estate would return to profitability. But in 1908 Otto Mears and Jack Slattery approached the heirs with a proposal to lease the entire idle operation, including the Iowa Mill. The owners accepted, and the lessees embarked on the beginning of a long-lasting, lucrative syndicate. Mears and Slattery rejected the conventional view that labor costs were an expense merely to be tolerated, believing instead their success hinged on the quality and loyalty of their miners. So they hired the most competent ones they could assemble and initiated a profit-sharing program to provide employees an incentive to find payrock and produce it efficiently. They also persuaded a number of other investors to join their company in order to finance repairs, improvements, and equipment. Then they rehabilitated the surface plant and underground workings at both the Royal Tiger and the Iowa and undertook an organized ore-exploration program. In 1909 workers at the Iowa sank a shaft and discovered an extension of the valuable Melville Vein, whose upper levels Robin and Gustavus Stoiber had previously identified and mined. The following year, elsewhere in the excavations, another crew discovered a gold ore vein valued at \$1,200 (about \$30,900 in 2015) per ton. Later in 1910 the foreman at the Royal Tiger blasted a chamber out of a vein's hanging wall; the shot revealed a hidden, parallel vein rich with free gold. The partners sent the newly discovered payrock via tramway down to the Iowa Mill for processing. Thus Mears and Slattery kept over one hundred employees busy through 1912. The miners made several more discoveries, too, and heavy production continued through 1913. But an avalanche destroyed the Royal Tiger boarding house that year and after five years of continuous yield, the lessees finally saw operations at the Iowa and Royal Tiger slow. To raise capital, Mears, Slattery, James Pitcher, and a few other investors organized another syndicate. In 1913 they leased the dormant Silver Lake from ASARCo and rehabilitated the Stoiber Tunnel, the mine's principal entry, which Edward had constructed to intersect the Nevada vein. The partners generated low-grade ore through 1914 and contracted for additional ground. The burgeoning combined Iowa and Silver Lake workforce justified reopening the Arastra post office, which the government had closed in years past. The company maintained a constant but limited production into 1917, when experienced miners noticed an eight-foot-wide vein laden with copper, silver, and gold in the walls of the Stoiber Tunnel. They sent its material, along with the rest they extracted, down to the Iowa Mill for treatment. The Mears entity was not the only one to labor at the Silver Lake and Iowa Mines during the first years of World War I. Small parties of lessees, mostly Italians the Stoibers had previously employed, squeezed out modest output from their claims. The Unity Tunnel saw activity, as well, from groups that may have contracted directly with ASARCo to work ground above and below the tunnel level. Also, several partnerships pooled their capital and modified the idle Bleichert tramway at the Unity so that it terminated near the Iowa Mill, where the lessees sent their product for processing.






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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Apr 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	2	3
4 Easter Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10 WMMI FAMILY DAY: 10am GEOLOGY and 11am Mike Boyle Radio Show Lunch with Rocco's Italian Food Truck!!
11	12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	
18	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting??	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	