

THE GOLD NUGGET

July 2022

The Prez Sez! by Joe Johnston



Here it is July and the year is half gone. The AV's have won the Stanley Cup and primary elections are done (I hope everyone looked at their candidates closely and cast their ballots on time). We have a big celebration coming up on the 4th of July. Independence was proclaimed on the 2nd but the document wasn't ready until the 4th so that is the date that went on the Declaration of Independence, yet the last signatures weren't added until August 2nd. Then we had to go through the Revolutionary war to finalize it. Such is history.

The club has renewed its' membership in PLP (Public Lands for the People) an organization that fights for our rights to public lands. This included entries for the July 14th grand drawing. <https://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org/2022-grand-raffle/> We have challenge cards and information cards for those who may need them. AMRA (American Mining Rights Association) <https://www.americanminingrights.com/> is another group that fights for us as well and I encourage everyone to get a personal membership to both in support of what they do.

We have a new Special Nugget drawing beginning in July, so come buy your tickets for this 6.1g beauty from Australia. I can be reached at cjoej1@peoplepc.com or 303-888-5417

Vice President's Corner! by Mike Stevens



Finally the weather gods cooperated and gave us a nice day to go digging outside of Black Hawk. Our first two events were canceled because of unseasonably rainy, snowy, cold weather, so it was nice to have a clear warm day to get together. These club outings have always been important to me because they motivate me to get out there and dig. There were about a dozen of us at this outing and everyone was able to get plenty of dirt. The only problem was when we headed down the canyon to stop and wash our dirt we saw that the banks were already full of people. By the time we dig the dirt and head down the canyon there are so many people out enjoying the beautiful weather and surroundings that there is no room for us. Due to the ongoing construction and crowds this has been an issue for a while now and something we should think about as a club. Should we meet up on another Saturday morning

with our collected dirt early enough to claim a spot along the river? Or is it every man for themselves and we concentrate our dirt on our own time? Some people have other places to go to avoid the crowds, which are great, but the majority of us don't. It's nice to see people out enjoying the beautiful canyon, but I do miss the days when there was plenty of space along the riverbanks for all. Its part of the camaraderie and learning experience that all of us, but especially new members are missing out on. Golden Smiles for All!

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The June meeting was a good one. 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 you wish to see it. Hope to see you all at the next meeting in July when we will be giving away nine more gold nuggets, the largest of which is around 2.4 grams....!! See you all in July

Board Meeting Minutes From June 2022

X	Joe Johnston	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr	X	Gordon Smith
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Kafka	X	Kathy Lemuel		Mike Hurtado
X	Bobby Manning	X	Chris Kafka	X	Kevin Singel		James Long

Quorum Present: Yes.



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Call to Order by: Pres Johnston_ at
_6:01_pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Corrections: _none_ Approved as
read/corrected: _Yes_.

Treasurer's Report: Questions: _none_ Approved: _Yes_.

Correspondence: phone calls _1_ e-mails _0_ mail _2_.

Webmaster: Total hits _161739_ Hits in last 30 days _216_.

Committee Reports: Outings planning remains ongoing. R. Ahr and Shelly Z are working on updating the membership list.

Unfinished Business: Speakers for July (Tony Frangelo of 5280) and (Kenneth King (Adventures in Dirt) and in August we will have the Colo. Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety with a speakers.

New Business: Kevin Singel has planned a Beginners Panning Class to take on June 25 at Big Bend.

Further discussion on merits of a New Member's Member Packet.

Planned Outings: The Outing Schedule has been pretty much established and Andy has published it with the Newsletter. We will continue to schedule as opportunities arrive. We have had to change our high banking spot to the Grubstaker Claim on Hwy 119, a mile above the gas station. June 18 Outing is on for Black Hawk.

Board Members Items of Discussion: Pres Johnston advised that we will be giving the 'Special' nugget away tonight. Also, water levels are up, be cautious.. Aurora Water Festival went well and Jenni Dehmlow is now running the Club Store. Bobby Manning has stated he wishes to hold the Club gold. Discussion continues on this issue. Bob Ahr would like to see a sign-up sheet for the Christmas Pot Luck. Added discussion as to whether we will hold a Club Picnic or not. There were no further items discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

Tonight's General Meeting Program: We have Kevin Singel who will do a presentation on the Sweet Home Mine in South Park.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting _07/20/22_ at 6:00pm Next General Meeting: _07/20/22_ at 7:00pm Meeting stands adjourned at _6:57_ pm.

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it!" Henry Ford

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

On how many continents has gold been found?

2022 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

Joe Johnston

Vice President

Mike Stevens

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

2 Year Board Members

Bobby Manning (2023)

1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Chris Kafka

Robert Ahr

Kevin Singel

Kathy Lemuel

Gordon Smith

Mike Hurtado

Past President

James Long

General Meeting Minutes From June 2022

1. Meeting was opened at 7:10 pm by Pres. Johnston with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Johnston then announced that the evening Program was Kevin Singel who gave a presentation on the Sweet Home Mine located in South Park, Colorado.
3. Pres. Johnston then gave the Metals Report: Gold _1820.30_, Silver _21.23_, Platinum _930.00_, Palladium _1756.00_, Rhodium _12100.00_.
4. Web hits for last month was _216_.
5. Treasurer Joe Kafka advised that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.4 grams. And we will be giving the 'special nugget' away at tonight's Meeting.
6. Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes have taken over the Registration Table. They reported that we had 46 members in attendance. There was 1 guest present tonight. The total meeting attendance was 47.
7. Pres. Johnston read the 'Question of the Month', which was "...What is the gold ion in the +1 oxidation state (Au(1)+ Called? The Winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. Pres. Johnston advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2022. A reminder



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to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.

9. Gordon Smith announced the 'Cache Clue #6'. You must be present at the meeting in order to get the Cache clues

10. Jenni Dehmlow advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We have some more of our gold bags also. We are also in desperate need of someone to attend to the Club Store. Please contact Pres. Johnston or Mike Stevens if you are interested.

11. Pres. Johnston informed the membership that the Schedule of Outings has been completed and posted in the Newsletter. There is room to add more Outings as the Year progresses.

12. Pres. Johnston announced that the Aurora Water Festival Panning Demonstration went well. The dig in black Hawk on the 18th is on.

13. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break Members who check things out of the Club Library are reminded to return them promptly. Don't forget to donate to the Refreshment Table. There was nothing added from the Floor.

14. Pres. Johnston announced the break at 8:10 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:30 pm.

15. Pres. Johnston announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was, "...Aurous...! There were a total of 14 winners who received an extra ticket for the upcoming gold drawings.

16. Pres. Johnston announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month' for May 2022. Those were:

- Best Coin – Kevin Singel with a Moderna Quarter he found in Puerto Rico while on vacation.
- Best Jewelry – Kevin Singel with a golden pendant he found in Puerto Rico while on vacation.
- Best Mineral – Chuck Borawa with a pyrite sample he found in a mine in Colorado.
- Best Artifact – Roger Schlenger with an old Bazooka sluice box he found in South Park, Colorado.
- Best Bottle – There was no entry in this category for this month.
- Most Raw Gold – Joe Fortunato with 3.5 grams of gold he found in Nevada.
- Largest Raw Gold – Mike Stevens with 0.19 grams of gold he found in Lynn Creek, Arizona.

17. Pres. Johnston concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR and JJ Long, Followed by the drawing for 9 gold nuggets. Pres. Johnston also wants to remind that holders of drawing tickets for the Regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were Robert Ahr.

18. Pres. Johnston then held the drawing for the 'Special Nugget' and the winner was Mike Stevens. Congratulations to Mike.

19. Pres. Johnston reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.

20. Pres. Johnston thanked Greg and Nancy Knerl and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

21. The July Meeting Program will be a presentation by 5280 and Adventures in Dirt. Join us for a good time with good people. Having nothing further at this time, remember to prospect safely, and we will see you all at the next get together.

From Your Library by Kathy Lemuel

Many thanks to Kevin Singel for donating Money Mountain: The Story of Cripple Creek Gold, written by Marshall Sprague. A very interesting book that is known for the hours of thorough research invested by the author to write this detailed factual historical account of this boom. Interesting stories too. This book is available for check out.

Stop by the table if you have any prospecting books you would like to donate. We would appreciate adding your books to the club collection.



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Calling all over due books to be returned. Our assortment of books is dwindling. No fees apply.

"So many books, so little time."

A Miner's Laugh

A guy walking by spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in. "So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog. "I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home." The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?" The owner, an old retired miner, says, "Because he's a dadgummed liar! He never did any of that stuff!"

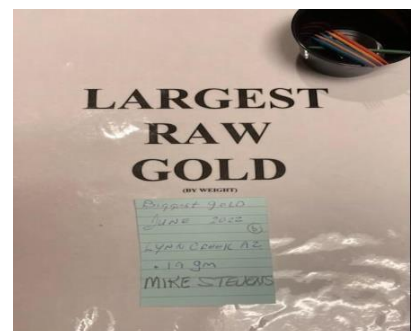
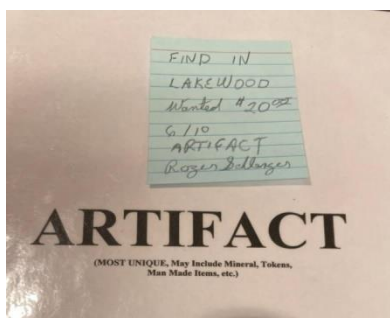
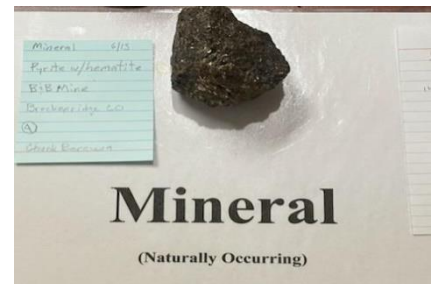
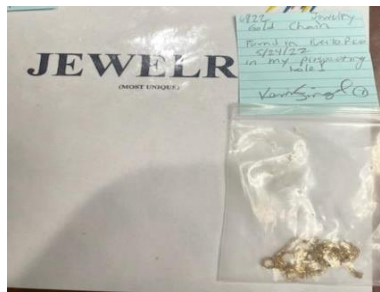
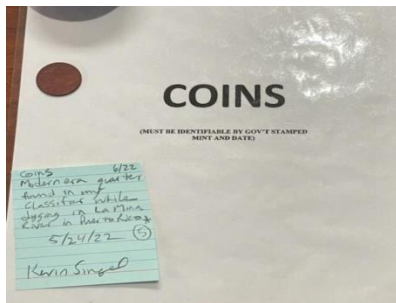
(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')



The finds of the Month Jan 2021:

Contest runs from November 2021 thru October 2022. We will be looking forward to seeing what you folks have found since last November.

- **Best Coin** – Kevin Singel with a Moderna Quarter found while prospecting in Puerto Rico while on vacation.
- **Best Jewelry** – Kevin Singel with a gold charm he found while on vacation in Puerto Rico.
- **Best Mineral** – Chuck Borowa with a pyrite sample from the B & B Mine that he found.
- **Best Artifact** – Roger Schlenger with a \$20 token he found in Lakewood.
- **Best Bottle** – There was no entry in this category for this month.
- **Most Raw Gold** – Joe Fortunato with 3.5 grams of gold he found metal detecting in Nevada.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – Mike Stevens with a .19 gram nugget he found in Arizona.



Be sure to bring any Finds that you have found in the last 30 days since the last meeting. You must list the date that you found the item and the area you found it when you submit it. Each monthly winner must save your winning Find and submit them in **November of 2022** for the **Find of the Year** in each category.



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Special Nugget Give-A-Way Contest Winner

Congratulations go to our Vice President **Mike Stevens** as his was the winning ticket drawn during the June Meeting for the 'Special Nugget' drawing. This particular nugget was a river worn Alaskan nugget which weighed around 15 grams. It is always fun to buy these tickets as you never know if yours will be drawn and the winner always has that chance at a nugget that is close to one half an ounce. Well done Mike, enjoy your hunk of gold..!! The Club will be looking for another nugget to offer up and we will let you know as soon as we can acquire one from our suppliers. We have several options we are looking at which include some beautiful specimens from Australia as well as Alaska. We may even find something even rarer like maybe Brazil or Peru, we shall see. Stay tuned to see what we find for you!



Second Club Outing of the Year

The guys and gals made it out to our favorite dig up near Black Hawk on June 18 for a little fun digging in the dirt. There are lots of changes going on in the general area but we are still able to dig on the private claim that we have accessed for the last number of years. Though things have changed somewhat, we are still finding fair gold on the site, as evidenced by Jack's photo below, so that is good. It seems that progress in and around Black Hawk continues to expand. However, it hasn't gotten to our dig location so far. For those who are still healthy enough to dig and lug those heavy buckets around, the gold continues to be decent. We had to cancel the second Outing in My due to some bitter weather that came into the area. The first Outing in April was a little chilly as well, but the weather in June was nigh on perfect. Sadly, everyone in Denver thought so as well and when the folks went down the canyon to high bank their material, all of our access points were taken up by other recreationalists who were out enjoying the day also. Jack did manage to get out on Monday and run his material and sent a couple of photos. I did get some other photos of the fun taken by **Jack Meineke, Mike Stevens and Bob Ahr**. Thanks guys..!!

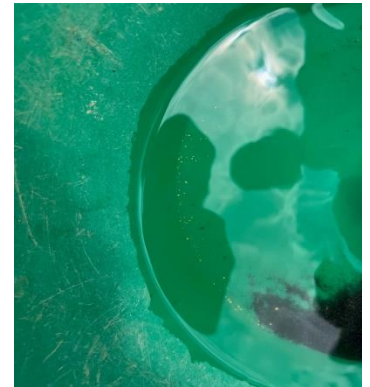




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Beginners Panning Class By Kevin Singel

On Saturday, July 25th, a gold panning and sluice demonstration class was held at Big Bend, just down the Rec path from Steel Street Park. There was plenty of parking and we started with a talk about various pieces of equipment. Then we headed down to the giant cobble bar on the South Platte. Roger Schlenger provided the sluice demo with his Grizzly Goldtrap sluice while Jack Meineke and I gave panning lessons to those in attendance. The weather held up for us with mostly cloudy skies and mid-60s for temps which made for great digging weather. Jack and I tested 7 spots before we found good gold for the participants but we found it! Once we found that spot, everyone was seeing color in their pans. As far as panning skills, I was kept humble by being around Jack. His panning skills and speed are top notch! Even the skilled panners among us are likely to have something to learn from the master...! Photos submitted by Kevin Singel:



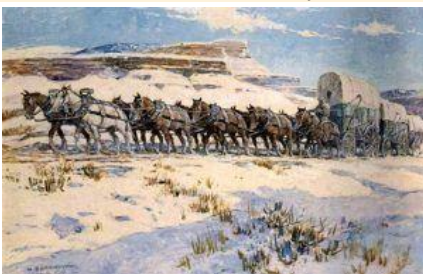
Mountain Treasures in Colorado By Kathy Weiser-Alexander, writer for *Legends of America*, updated February 2020

Nothing beats the allure of hidden treasure. With its promise of shedding a light on history and the fact that it is likely to be worth huge sums of money, it's no wonder so many are drawn to hunt for it. Read on to discover some of America's most incredible treasures still waiting to be unearthed.

Arapaho Princess Treasure – Long ago, the Spaniards buried eight burro-loads of 50 lb gold bars somewhere in the stone cliffs above the Purgatory River about 5 miles east of Las Animas. It is said that the gold bars were buried about 300 feet away from a strange arrangement of rocks, one of which was in the shape of a doll and stood about 30 feet high. The burial site was near an early 1800s village in the foothills. However, before any of the gold could be spent or moved, the Spanish were killed and the treasure has never been recovered.



Chacuaco Canyon Treasure - In 1858, there was a wagon train traveling through the southeast part of Colorado, in what is now Las Animas County, which was carrying 1,500 pounds of gold Ingots. Suddenly, the wagon train was attacked by a



group of outlaws and renegade Indians. At first, the wagon train prevailed, driving off the would-be thieves and, in an effort to elude their tormentors; the travelers detoured through Chacuaco Canyon.

However, the outlaw gang continued to pursue the wagon train with a vengeance. Three members of the wagon train quickly loaded the gold ingots onto six mules and led the loaded animals to a rock outcropping along a nearby creek. While the three were hiding the gold, the outlaws caught up with the wagon train and, furious, they slaughtered each and every member of the party. While the massacre was taking place, the three men escaped to a Mexican nearby village. However, when they returned to retrieve the gold, they



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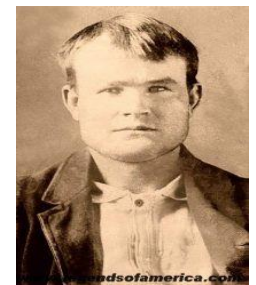
were killed by Ute Indians before ever reaching their destination. To this day, the treasure has never been found. *Wagon train in winter by Nick Eggenhofer*

Update! June, 2009 – From one of the readers of *Legends of America*, it was learned that though the facts of this tale are partially incorrect, the legend of the treasure is true. Doing his own research for a number of years, the reader has determined the “real story” and has actually located the vast majority of the treasure which included small gold bars with Spanish insignias.

Devil’s Head Mountain -Devil’s Head Mountain, thirty miles north of Woodland Park, can be seen for 75 miles as it towers over the vast forest and scenic meadows. The area surrounding the landmark is filled with wild gulches, mysterious caves, and thick timber. In the late 1800s, the area was rife with outlaws, due to its many opportunistic hideouts. There are numerous tales of buried treasure in the Devil’s Head vicinity just waiting to be found. While you are there, you can enjoy the area’s multiple jeep roads, trails, and days of exploring. At the summit, is the last operating fire lookout tower along Colorado’s Front Range. The tower was built in 1912 with materials packed up the mountain by mules. The tower offers a magnificent 360-degree view of the surrounding Pike National Forest. The easiest way to get there is to go west from Sedalia on Rt. 67, then south on Rampart Range Road, then ten miles to the Devil’s Head access road.



Irish Canyon -In the late 1800’s Irish Canyon was a popular hideout of outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch, Matt Warner, Isom Dart, and many others as they spent time in the Browns Park vicinity in Moffat County. Supposedly, \$30,000 in silver coins remains buried somewhere in the canyon. While you are looking for the treasure, you can also enjoy many excellent trails, hiking, and mountain opportunities. You can also visit the Irish Canyon Rock Art Site, where you can see the Fremont rock art from an elevated platform. Moffat County is in the extreme northwest part of Colorado. Irish Canyon is northwest of Maybell. From Maybell, take US-40 to Colorado 318. Turn northwest onto 318 and continue to Moffat County Road 10N, which runs through the canyon.



Round Mountain -Long ago, a party of four French Canadians were said to have been trapping on the Snake River near Round Mountain. However, the Canadians were discovered by American trappers who took their furs and traps and ran them off. The four traveled south into western Colorado and one of them found a gold nugget in the headwaters of the Gunnison River.

Here, they spent the next month successfully panning the gravel in the creek beds. Ute Indians discovered the Frenchmen and attacked them. In the running battle, which lasted several days, three Frenchmen were killed. The fourth managed to escape over Cochetopa Pass (just west of Saguache). Sensing that his pursuers were closing in, he buried the gold on Round Mountain with the hopes of later returning for it. The Indians caught and killed the lone French-Canadian near the summit of Poncha Pass. The treasure has never been found and the story endures hundreds of years later.

The Ten-Cent Treasure -Many years ago, a wagon train from the Denver mint, loaded with new dimes destined for Phoenix, Arizona disappeared somewhere between a Crawford ranch and Montrose. Four to six wooden kegs of new dimes were loaded on four separate wagons traveling as a group. Several years later, treasure hunters found the remains of four wagons at the rim of a canyon where a side wash fell off into the river ravine. Though they were able to gather several gallons of dimes along the Gunnison River near the north rim of Black Canyon, more treasure awaits the finding..



Archaeologists Have Discovered the Oldest Prehistoric Mine in America by

(Gleaned from various internet news sources)

Archaeologists have discovered what appears to be the oldest mine in the Americas, a quarry in eastern Wyoming where prehistoric humans sourced red ocher some 13,000 years ago. Red ocher, also known as hematite, was a versatile substance for the ancients, who employed it in ritual ceremonies as bug repellent or sunscreen, and for medicinal use. It was also hugely important for prehistoric artists, for whom it was a pigment for painting cave art. The discovery of the quarry, uncovered at a site known as Powars II, was published in early 2022 in the academic journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* by a team at the University of Wyoming.



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“We have unequivocal evidence for use of this site by early Paleoindians as long as 12,840 years ago and continuing by early Americans for about 1,000 years,” Wyoming state archaeologist Spencer Pelton, the paper’s lead author, said in a statement. In excavations of a new trench at Powars II carried out between 2017 and 2020, archaeologists found antlers and other animal bones that had been used to extract the red ocher from the earth.

Radiocarbon dating techniques determined that humans first began digging the mine from 12,840 to 12,505 years ago, and that the site was active for hundreds of years. Humans even returned after a hiatus of about a century, resuming their mining activities. The findings confirm theories proposed by archaeologist George Frison, who first began studying the Powars II site in 1986, helping save it from a 20th-century mining project. (He died in 2020, shortly after the excavations concluded, and is still credited as a coauthor of the paper.) Prior to the most recent dig, artifacts discovered at the Powars II site included Clovis points made by early inhabitants of North America, tools, and shell beads—and archaeologists expect more finds as excavations continue in the years to come. “Beyond its status as a quarry, the Powars II artifact assemblage is itself one of the densest and most diverse of any thus far discovered in the early Paleoindian record of the Americas,” Pelton added.

Red ocher was commonly used across the Americas, and has been found at many ancient burial grounds, campsites, and hunting grounds. But only five red ocher quarries have ever been identified in the Americas, and Powars II is the first one found north of southern Mexico. “Red paint is the oldest form of symbolic expression,” Pelton told the *Gillette News Record*. “But there’s just not much red pigment in America.”

CONTINUED) **The Mystery of the Double Eagle Gold Coins** A Philadelphia family has some and the U.S. has been chasing them for 70 years. Why? By Susan Berfield

Fenton bought the Double Eagle for \$210,000 and arranged to sell it to an American dealer named Jasper Parrino for \$850,000. On Feb. 7, 1996, Fenton flew from London to New York on the Concorde and checked into the Hilton. The next morning, he recalls, he tucked the coin into a plastic envelope, put it in his shirt pocket, pulled on a new black cashmere sweater, and hopped into a taxi to the Waldorf Astoria. “It was a routine deal,” he says.

He went up to a corner suite on the 22nd floor and presented the coin to Parrino, who had already arranged to sell it to Jack Moore, a dealer from Texas, for \$1.65 million. Moore had brought along a coin expert of his own. As this expert examined the coin, Fenton began to suspect trouble. “His hands were shaking quite a lot,” says Fenton. “I thought he might try to steal it. I was afraid someone was going to come bursting into the room with guns. Well, they did.”

Moore had contacted the Secret Service and helped them set up an undercover operation. Fenton and Parrino were thrown to the floor by gun-wielding agents who had been waiting in the room next door. “I had an out-of-body experience,” says Fenton. “I felt like I was on top of the wardrobe watching. It was like a movie. Then the coin just vanished.”

Fenton faced criminal charges of “conspiring to convert to his own use and attempt to sell property of the United States.” He hired a trial lawyer, Barry H. Berke of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, who was able to get those charges dropped fairly quickly. “Then it was a straight fight for the coin,” says Fenton. “I thought: The government has two of them [in the Smithsonian]. Why do they want mine? The only people who think the pursuit of these coins is worthwhile is the government. Everyone else thinks the government should have better things to do with its time and money.”

After five years of legal wrangling and just four days before the case was scheduled to go to trial in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Fenton and the Justice Dept. came to an unusual agreement: The coin would be auctioned off and the proceeds split between them. That was in late January 2001. The coin was taken from the Treasury vault at 7 World Trade Center and put in Fort Knox. Then came the terrorist attacks on September 11. “If the coin had been left where it was, it would have been destroyed,” says Fenton.

In February 2002, the Mint announced the auction of the “fabled and elusive 1933 Double Eagle twenty dollar coin” at (BID)Sotheby’s on July 30. “The storied coin has been the center of international numismatic intrigue for more than 70 years,” said Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore in the press release. Afterward the coin would become the only 1933 Double Eagle “now or ever authorized for private ownership.”

Then the publicity campaign began. Matt Lauer wore white cotton gloves to hold the coin on the Today show. The New York Times ran a large photo of it. Sotheby’s, working with Stack’s, produced a 56-page catalog titled *The Golden Disk of 1933: Only One*.

The Only One was displayed at the Long Beach Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Expo, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Sotheby’s. “The Mint police and New York City police escorted it back and forth every day to a depository at



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West Point in an armored car,” says David N. Redden, the auctioneer for Sotheby’s. “It was fantastic. That made it look wildly important. The government treated it as a national treasure, which it is, in a way. It wasn’t going to disappear on their watch. It had already disappeared once.”

The auction took place at 6 p.m. in front of a standing-room-only crowd. The coin was in a bulletproof glass case to the right of the auctioneer. The Mint director was there. So were Fenton, Berke, and the assistant U.S. attorney. Redden opened the bidding at \$2.5 million. Six minutes later his hammer went down: An anonymous buyer had purchased the 1933 Double Eagle for \$6.6 million (a 15 percent buyer’s premium brought the price to \$7.59 million). It was nearly twice as much as anyone had ever paid for a coin.

Immediately afterward, Mint Director Fore held a ceremony on the auction floor to make the Double Eagle legal tender. “In order to monetize it, somebody had to pay \$20,” says Redden. “So I stepped down from the podium and gave her \$20. The Mint makes a big distinction between coins that are monetized and those that are not. Two Double Eagles are in the Smithsonian, but they’re not monetized. To the government, they’re curiosities, not currency.”

The buyer, who according to Redden is an American interested in no other coins but this one, never brought the Double Eagle home. He lent it to the American Numismatic Society, which has displayed the coin at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ever since.

“I wanted to end with everybody happy, and everybody was. One of these coins is in the marketplace, and that’s very important,” says Fenton. “I was absolutely thrilled — and exhausted. It felt strange that it was all over.”

Except it wasn’t.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

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 atouchofclassparker@gmail.com
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The Gold Nugget

Gold Prospectors of the Rockies
PO Box 150096
Lakewood, Co 80215-0096

ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET

Commercial Ads

- 3.6" x 2.0" Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)..... \$6
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- 7.5" x 4.3" Eight Column Inches (Horizontal)..... \$24
- 3.6" x 9.3" Nine Column Inches (Vertical)..... \$24
- 7.5" x 9.3" Eighteen Column Inches (Full Page)..... \$48

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 Aug 2022

(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	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20 GPR Outing Dig Blackhawk
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			