Wow, we had a really great presentation by Bill and Beth Hagstetter at the March meeting. Bill showed a slide show titled ‘The Cliff Dwellings Speak’ that was really fascinating. It took me back to my youth when I fished and hunted and hiked all over southern Colorado and found a few sites that I thought were interesting at the time, yet I saw them with truly blind eyes. If I had only known then what I know now. I also found a number of old mining sites in those days, some in very remote areas of the San Juan Mountains. Again, if only I had known then what I know now, who knows what wonders I had found and didn’t recognize. Not sure I could find a tenth of them today if I tried. It was great to see Bill and Beth again. They are great people and live such interesting lives as they share their life dreams and adventures together. We are lucky they so willingly share these adventures with us in the form of their pictures, slides, and explanations.

The weather has been very weird this last month or so. Who ever heard of it being so warm at this time of the year. Last year, I recorded 85 inches of snow at my home in Northglenn, and 65 inches the year before. This year, to date, I have had 17 inches. The best part of this weather is that it has allowed a number of us to access the Creeks, especially at the lower elevations, at a time when they are pretty well free of ice and snow and fairly easy to work, if you don’t mind the water being a little cold. My personal thanks go out to Greg Davis who has ‘hosted’ several unofficial outings on Clear Creek recently. Both events were well attended by members and it is a blessing to have members who are willing to share their time and expertise with others. I have been out myself on the Creek and am still finding gold.

I know that the weather has also assisted a few of our metal detecting folks, myself included, in being able to access a lot of the parks and other areas that are often under snow at this time of year.

I have yet to hear from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on this Committee that he is putting together reference access to public lands and their uses. I did note with great satisfaction that Senator Atkinson of Oregon has backed off Senate Bill 765 and is going to let it die in Committee. For those of you who don’t know, this guy wanted to establish an outrageous permit fee to out of state dredgers in Oregon, to the tune of 2500.00 per permit. A permit was only good for one county, and if you were going to dredge in 3 counties, it would have cost you 7500.00. But he caught so much heat from miners that he decided to back down. What gave me great satisfaction was in knowing that when miners do unite with a common voice, it can be pretty loud and as in this case, effective. But this is just one battle of many that are being waged. I think that there will be some gains made back in California before that battle is over and done with as well. And I feel confident that the miners in Alaska will be fairly successful as well. Hey, I want to be positive about this….I personally believe that negative thoughts just encourages failure. I have seen it happen many, many times, as I am sure some of you have as well. I believe in being cautious but prefer to be cautiously optimistic.

At the April meeting, we will be hosting an equipment sale/swap or whatever. If you have any mining equipment that you want to get rid of and it can be displayed relatively easily and aren’t using it anymore, bring it to the meeting. We will have a bunch of tables set up in the back and you can sell, swap, trade, donate or whatever you want to do with it. It should be interesting and fun.

And, that is the way I see it from here. So until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottom of your pans turn bright with that ‘Yaller Gold’..!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or by inslong945@msn.com

The V.P. Corner by Don Bray
An Alaska Mining Pioneer Leaves for Alaska

Elmer Keturi was born in 1906 to Finnish immigrant parents. Elmer was the eldest son and the second eldest of his five siblings. In 1921 Elmer’s family settled on a dairy farm in the “Finger Lakes” area of New York State where Elmer discovered his aptitude for the repair of machinery and the operation of heavy construction equipment.

In 1913 word of gold being discovered at Flat, AK (then known as Flat City, Alaska) reached Butte, Montana where some of Elmer’s relatives were living and working in the copper mines. Elmer’s Aunt Aina (Ina) and her husband Gus (Uotila) moved to Flat right away and were followed a little later by Uncle Oscar with his wife and daughter, also of Butte. Oscar
and his family stayed a short time in Alaska then returned to the “lower forty-eight” settling first in New York State then in Detroit, Michigan. After some time in Detroit Oscar began to leave his family there and travel to Alaska each late winter, arriving in Flat just before the spring-thaw. During the spring-thaw Oscar worked as a member of a gold dredge crew rebuilding and repairing the dredge for the coming summer/fall dredge season. During the dredge season he helped operate the dredge and after freeze-up returned to Detroit and his family.

During the winter of 1929 Oscar came to visit Elmer’s family in New York and while there he invited Elmer to go to Alaska with him and work the coming dredge season. Toward the end of February Oscar and Elmer left by train for Seattle, via Detroit.

After a couple of days of site seeing in Seattle the pair booked passage on the steamship Alaska for Seward, AK. Passage cost eighty-seven dollars per person and included meals and a stateroom with two berths. The Alaska traveled the Inside Passage and the trip took seven days to Seward because of the many stops to unload and load freight at coastal towns and fish canneries along the way. At Seward they boarded the Alaska Railroad train to Fairbanks. At Nenana, about 55 miles east of Fairbanks, they got off the train to stay overnight and start their hikes of the mail dog trail in the morning.

In his memoirs “Trails and Tailings”, Elmer writes: “In the morning it was thirty below zero outside but with our parkas on, and our packsacks on our backs, we headed west. The mail dog trail, hard and well packed, was built up about three feet but the sides were soft and fluffy snow.

Government maintained and manned roadhouses made of logs were spaced approximately twenty-five miles apart along the mail dog trail. The charge was four dollars and fifty cents a night, which included supper and breakfast; also a bunk and blankets. A few relief cabins did not have a caretaker. We bought food from the previous roadhouse for our overnight stops at these cabins, and saw to it that we left wood and kindling for the next traveler, as was the custom.”

After seventeen days and 425 miles on the trail and passing through the towns of McGrath, Ophir and Iditarod the men arrive in Flat City. Because the mail dog trail traverses mostly bogs and rivers it is only passable after freeze-up and through the winter.

Elmer went on to work summers on the dredges, found several mining and construction companies, with his relatives (The Moore Creek Mine) and constructs several government installations during WWII (The Galena, AK Air Base) when gold mining was outlawed. In 1984 he penned his memoirs and died in 1996.

If you are interested in reading Elmer Keturi’s entire memoirs, you can find them at http://www.keturi.com/.

Contact me at: don_bray@copper.net

From the Ledger of Peg Brozek, Treasurer/Secretary

Thanks to Richard Harrison, Don Bray, Joe Johnson, Lloyd Lauck, Phil Huff and JJ Long for their contributions to the members only drawing.

This month’s nugget drawing totals 8.2 grams, with the largest being 2.9 grams. (oh, it's a beauty).

Don’t forget about the special nugget drawing --$1 a ticket or 7 tickets for $5.

Be prepared to buy extra and good luck to all.

Board Meeting Minutes From Mar 2011

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Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: Meeting was called to Order at 6:04 by Jim Long.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Feb Minutes were read.
Corrections: None
Approved as read/corrected: Yes

Treasurer’s Report: Read by Jim Long. Questions: None Approved: Yes

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How much is the US annual average consumption of gold?
**Correspondence:** Received 18 e-mails and 12 phone calls from within as well as outside the Club. Rec’d Mar schedule of events from WMII. Rec’d an invoice from Graphic Designs.

**Committee Reports:** Mike Hurtado reported on Memberships stating that only half the members have paid their dues. Club will drop unpaid members on 4-1-11 if unpaid.

**Webmaster:** Andy Doll reports 107,047 hits total on the web site, 1,370 since Feb meeting.

**Unfinished Business:** Mike H. has ordered 50 gold pan magnets to sell through the Club Store. He is working on some belt buckles and pouches made of leather with Club Logo to sell as well. The Club will realize percentage of those sales.

**New business:** JJ will be renewing our Corporation status with the Colorado Secretary of State which is due Apr. 21. It was decided to hand out cards to new members and guests with gold samples on them left over from the old days of the Panning Demo Trailer. There were 356 cards which will last the Club 2 or 3 years or more. There was no further new business to discuss.

**Planned Outings:** As of this date, the following outings are in the planning stages

May 7,8  Prospect outing at Point Bar with GPOC members.
May 12  Panning demo for Aurora Youth Water Festival.
May 8  Possible Panning Class on Clear Creek for new/beginner members.
June  Don Bray to organize a ‘rock hound’ outing.
July  Joe Johnston to organize a metal detecting outing
August  Jim Long to hold a panning sluicing outing for newer members.
Sept  Jim Long to organize a possible gold prospecting outing.
May – Oct  Sue Lemieux is arranging various tours to include the Argo Mine, The Heidi Mine, The Lebanon Silver Mine, and the School of Mines Museum.

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting Apr. 20, 2011 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Apr. 20, 2011 at 7:00pm

**Tonight’s General Meeting Program:** A slide show presentation by Bill and Beth Hagstetter on “The Cliff Dwellings Speak”.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 7:00pm.

**From the Webmaster**

If you haven’t had a chance to take a look of the videos available on the web site, do so. When we have guest speakers or something special going on at the meetings I will record it and list it here.

**New Video** – From the March meeting, Bill & Beth Hagstetter present THE CLIFF DWELLINGS SPEAK.

If you have updates for, comments about, or anything else regarding the club website contact the webmaster at: smes3901@hotmail.com

Thanks: Andy Doll

**General Meeting Minutes From Mar 2011**

1. President Jim Long called the meeting to order at 7:13 P.M.
2. Jim asked Brandon Luchtenburg to lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, to open the meeting.
3. Jim announced today’s metal prices as follows: Gold $1397.46 per t oz, Silver $34.26 per t oz, Platinum $1702.00 per t oz. and Palladium $707.00 per t oz.
4. Jim stated that according to Peg’s Board Meeting Treasurer’s Report the club’s finances remain in the black. He also noted that membership dues are due if they have not already renewed. Membership dues not received before April 1, 2011 will be dropped from the membership roll.
5. Jim announced tonight’s program as “The Cliff Dwellings Speak” by Beth and Bill Hagstetter. The Hagstetters presented a program two years ago titled “The Mining Camps Speak” to the GPR. Bill stated that he and Beth have been exploring cliff dwelling sites in the “four corners” area of the US and in Mexico for over forty years, primarily in the winter months. He further stated that it has taken them ten years to pull together their new book titled “The Cliff Dwellings Speak”. In his presentation Bill covered the following main topics:
   • For historical background the cliff dwelling period ran from about 850 to 1150AD. That period seems to have consisted of a steady period of increased growth of these agrarian societies with an abrupt ending in about 1150AD. These societies scattered from Cahokia in Southern Illinois, through the Southwest US and down to the Mayan
civilization in central Mexico were all abandoned about 1150AD, during a time of societal upheaval, causes of which remain unknown.

- Bill next discussed what we could learn from the architectural features themselves. He first pointed to a feature either man-made or natural at all sites that restrict access to only one person at a time, which he calls a “barrier to entry”. Bill then discussed the various types of rooms found within the dwellings identifying “living quarters” with their “T-shaped” doors and smoky walls, storage rooms (or granary’s) with their window like openings and sealable straight door slots. Another type of room found is the ceremonial room or “Kiva” these rooms are usually round but may be “D” shaped or rectangular and can be identified by a round hole near the center of the roof.

- Lastly Bill addressed his theory of the purpose for the “T-shaped” doors. Archeologists are puzzled by the preponderance of “T-shaped” doors found among the cliff dwellings. They have many hypotheses but no consensus on any one. Bill’s hypothesis is that the door’s shape is related to the ventilation requirements for an inhabited enclosed room with a fire burning in a hearth. He has observed that the soot stains on the walls, within the rooms, are from the ceiling down to the bottom of the upper (wider) portion of the door slots and the rooms contain no evidence of raised platforms or sleeping surfaces. Bill believes the inhabitants sat and slept on the floor in a fresh air layer entering the lower (narrower) portion of the door slot while the smoky exhaust gases exited the upper (wider) portion.

This presentation, like the Hagstetter’s previous one on the mining camps, is a joy to witness in additional to being very educational. Thank you Beth and Bill.

6. Jim called on Ed Fielding for this evening’s membership report. Ed reported that tonight we have 64 paid memberships, 4 new memberships and 70 in attendance including 10 guests.

7. Jim asked, vice president, Don Bray for any VP announcements. Don reported that he has brought a rock from North Clear Creek (Old Texan Claim). The rock has a rich dark copper colored outer appearance but when cut exposes that it is entirely white quartz.

8. Jim called on Sue Clover to read her “Question of the Month” which is, “How many tonnes, that’s t-o-n-n-e-s, of gold is held at Ft. Knox?” Sue will collect your answers to this question during the break and distribute a “Club Nugget” drawing ticket to each person turning in a correct answer.

9. Jim announced that Peg Brozek is selling tickets for a new 17.1-gram “Members-Only” large nugget drawing during the break. The drawing will be held at a later date.

10. Jim announced that he would now read the fifth “GPR Cache Clue”, had he brought it with him tonight.

11. Jim asked Sue Lemieux to come forward to announce tonight’s “Golden Cupcake Awards” for those with March birthdays. Those claiming the awards are Sue Clover, Paul Eckold, Don Dixon, Steve Barritt, Nick Rindsley and Don Bray.

12. Sue Lemieux also announced that she is planning for four field trips this year. Possible trips are to the Heidi Mine, Argo Mill, Georgetown Loop Train with the Lebanon Silver Mine, and the CSM Geology Museum, in the fall.

13. Jim asked for a show of hands from those, in attendance, that access the newsletter from the attachments in the email announcements. A majority raised their hands. Then he asked for those who access the newsletter from the website to raise their hands. Just a few responded.

14. Leslie Schomer announced that she has a La Crosse Gold Mining Company stock certificate for sale. If interested see Leslie during the break.

15. Jim announced that member Glenn Glass has a patented mining claim “Tax Lien Certificate” for sale. The certificate is for the Little Gem Mine in Gilpin County. Talk to Glenn during the break for more details if you have an interest.

16. Jim announced that the Club Store would be open during the break. He further stated that the store would soon have a couple of new items for sale. Leather wallets and pouches with the club logo and some small gold pan refrigerator magnets.

17. Jim announced the meeting refreshment break, at 8:22. At 8:41 Jim reconvened the meeting.


19. Jim asked Sue Clover to announce the answer for her “Question of the Month” contest. The correct answer is “4176 tonnes (metric) of gold are held at the US Bullion Depository in Ft. Knox.”
20. Chuck Cown, Peggy Brozek, and Jim conducted this evening’s “Members-Only” and the “Club-Nugget” drawings. For the “Member’s-Only” drawing, 7 prizes were awarded to members; our thanks go to all who donated tonight’s prizes. Eight nuggets for the “Club-Nugget” drawing were won tonight, the largest being 2.7 gram. The nuggets tonight are from various localities (as noted on the containers).

21. Next meeting will be April 20 at 7:00 P.M. The April program is scheduled to be “Member’s Swap Meet”.

22. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Submitted by, Don Bray, Recorder

A Miner’s Laugh

An old prospector and a woman we married for many years, even though they hated each other. When they had a confrontation, screaming and yelling could be heard deep into the night. The old miner would shout, “When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!”

Fellow miners in the neighborhood feared him. They believed that he practiced black magic because of the many strange occurrences that took place in the neighborhood. The old prospector liked the fact that he was feared.

To everyone’s relief, he died of a heart attack when he was 98. His wife had a closed casket at the wake. After the burial, she went straight to the local saloon and began to party as if there was no tomorrow.

Her neighbors, concerned for her safety, asked “Aren’t you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life?”

The wife put down her drink and said, “Let him dig all he wants to. I had him buried upside down.”

Reprinted from the Jul/Aug 2009 issue of GPAA’s Gold Prospectors magazine

Newsworthy Notes Concerning Mining Interests

From the Denver Post:

3-8-11 Colorado health officials issued a final radioactive materials license for what would be the country’s first new conventional uranium mill in more than 25 years. The Dept. of Public Health and Environment in Jan. approved a preliminary license for Energy Fuels Corp.’s proposed Pinon Ridge mill in southwestern Colorado. The Sheep Mountain Alliance, a citizens group based in Telluride, has filed a lawsuit seeking to revoke the license. A Denver Judge has yet to rule on the health department’s request to dismiss the suit.

3-23-11 Molycorp Inc., owner of the world’s largest rare-earth deposit outside China, rose the most in three months in New York as mineral prices surged and concern about the impact of Japan’s earthquake abated. Molycorp climbed $7.89, or 18 percent, to $52.57 in New York Stock Exchange trading Tuesday. (don’t you wish you had a bunch of that stock..?? JJ)

3-26-11 Letter to the Editor: The great outdoors is essential to Colorado’s culture and economy. Visitors and locals come here to raft, ski, hunt and fish – activities that give our economy a powerful boost. That’s one reason why our US Senators should reject the budget bill the House is pushing. The bill would slash conservation funding and block the BLM’s new wild lands policy, which restores protections to priceless wilderness-quality public lands. Without this policy, some of Colorado’s wildest places may be opened to development and placed off limits for recreation. These cuts do little to change the federal deficit, but represent a major threat to Colorado’s $10 billion outdoor recreation industry. Last month, 73 local elected Colorado officials sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to support the BLM’s new policy. I urge Senators. Udall and Bennet to show similar leadership in voting against a bill that would hurt Colorado’s environment and economy. Suzanne Jones, Boulder. The writer is the regional director for the Wilderness Society. (I note that she did not include mining in her first sentence but it is interesting to note that the eco-groups do not hesitate to contribute regularly to expressing their viewpoints to the media. Are we missing the boat here..?? JJ).
#1 The Alaska Centennial Nugget - 294.10 Troy Ounces. The largest gold nugget ever found in Alaska. It was found near Ruby, Alaska in 1998 by a miner as he operated his bulldozer. The nugget rolled off the pile of dirt ahead of the bulldozer blade. This nugget was sold and the current location is unknown. Photo Copyright 2001 by Marshall Ronne, Jr.

10/25/10 News Flash! This historic find is once more on the market. http://kitsapauction.com/nugget.html

Sue’s Sluice Box

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### Back in the Days... by Jim Long

**GEORGETOWN (Elizabethtown) Part 1:**

Louis Dupoy was, without a doubt, one of the most unique characters in early Colorado. He was the figure of Georgetown. He set the tone of the distinct personality of this city.

Dupoy told so many stories of his background it is impossible to give an accurate account. It is believed he deserted the French Army. He did many things on his way across the country, before he turned up a miner in the thriving city of Georgetown.

They say he was injured in a mine accident while saving a fellow miner’s life. A hero, but unable to work again as a miner, Dupoy started a store on the money collected for him by other miners. The store eventually grew into a hotel. Dupoy finally found his calling in the hotel business. Under his stern but unpredictable guidance, his hotel became the center of Georgetown and the talk of the nation.

The hotel, of course, was the Hotel de Paris.

A perfectionist, Dupoy insisted on the best in furnishings, food and wine. He is called the father of Domestic Science in the United States. It was not a haphazard title. Dr. James Russell of Columbia University began the first course in the field shortly after visiting Hotel de Paris and studying the science under the old master, Louis Dupoy.

The incongruities in Dupoy’s character added to the luster of his hotel. He hated women and most men. He insisted on decorum and good taste. But his moral beliefs seldom conformed with those of the day. He would rather let a room to a well behaved harlot than a dowdy, ill mannered wife of a carbonate king. He was known for turning away or evicting those who couldn’t live up to his standards.

They say he loved children best of all people. Men were to argue with. He loved to argue – any subject, any side, just for the sake of an argument. He loved poetry and was the father of philosophy in Georgetown. His philosophic gems, although seldom penetrating, were at least different.

Dupoy refused to pay taxes. In fact, he boasted of keeping a loaded shotgun handy to shoot anyone who attempted to collect taxes from him.

The final incongruity in his character concerned his friendship with Madame Galet. Although an avowed women hater, he permitted her to move in on his life and dominate it. Although he frequently argued loudly with her, he worshipped her. She gradually took over the operation of the hotel. When he died in 1900, he left the hotel, lock, stock and rare wines, to her.
In its heyday, under Dupoy, the top figures of the day, including General Ulysses S. Grant, stayed at the hotel and were thrilled at the exquisite cuisine and rare wines. Hotel de Paris was the social center of Georgetown, and the main reason for the aristocratic name Georgetown had among Colorado mining camps. It had its boisterous side, its roaring red light district, and its murders. But all this was overshadowed by a queenliness, distinct from any other city in Colorado at the time.

Another important figure in early Georgetown was William A. Hamill, mine owner, lawyer, brigadier general in the State Militia, and Colorado political and civic leader. Hamill purchased the Watson House in 1872 for only $4,500.00. After that, Hamill spared no expense in developing the property until it became one of the most luxurious homes in the state. Highlights of the house, still standing today, include diamond dust mirrors; gold, silver and camel’s hair wallpaper; carrara marble and onyx fireplaces; walnut and maple woodwork; curved glass conservatory, and even an elegant out-house. Today, the home is called The Alpine Lodge.

The first buildings displayed a feeling of permanence. Their, architecture, although of different schools, was of high taste. This personality is alive today in the brightly colored and beautifully situated city of Georgetown.

But, it was always a mining town. Before Leadville appeared on the scene, Georgetown was the most important silver mining town in Colorado. It has remained, even after Leadville, one of the richest mining towns in the state. It has been estimated, as much as 200 million dollars worth of precious metals have been mined from the hills around Georgetown. They say George Griffith, tired from prospecting, laid down in the shade to rest. Some say he discovered rich ore when he used a rock to brace himself as he got up. Part of the rock broke off, uncovering rich ore. Others say Griffith merely noticed evidence of pay dirt as he rested on the ground. At any rate, we know that he discovered pay dirt….and he was tired. That was in 1859, when the Pikes Peak gold rush was in full swing. But most of the 59’ers were centered around Central City. Not many of them had gone as far into the mountains as Georgetown as George Griffith had….

To be continued in Part 2, next month.

Excerpts from A Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps by Perry Eberhart 1959
The Gold Nugget
Gold Prospectors of the Rockies
PO Box 621988
Littleton, CO 80162-1988

ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET
Commercial Ads
3.6” x 2.0” Two Column Inches (Business Card Size)……… $6
3.6” x 4.3” Four Column Inches………………………….. $12
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 May 2011
(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

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