

THE GOLD NUGGET

June 2013

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



I Alaska!!! Oh, my gosh, Alaska..! It is the last true frontier of modern America. A place where you can still find gold by the ounces, in both flour as well as nugget form. If you have not been to Alaska to prospect, you have simply got to put it on your bucket list as a must do.

Now I believe that there are two Alaska's. There is the Alaska that you go up to just to see all the sights such as Glacier Bay, Mt. McKinley, wildlife spotting, fishing, and all those kinds of really great and fun things. And then there is the Alaska that has all the gold. They are two different kinds of mind sets.

You can do them both at the same time, but it is my opinion that they are two trips that really need to be separated.

Let's talk about the Alaska that has all the gold. If you really want a true prospecting experience, Alaska can give it to you. It is not cheap. To do the GPAA Cripple River trip will run you 2500.00 for the first week and 900.00 for each week after that and you need to sign up well in advance. But the experience you can get from that trip is invaluable. There are many other claim owners throughout Alaska that will offer you the opportunity to prospect on their claims, for a fee of course, and some of them are pretty expensive as well. But some are not very expensive at all. And you will most certainly find gold, and in some cases, a lot more gold than you would really think you would find. In some cases, you could possibly find enough to easily pay for all your trip expenses.

We have a few members throughout the Club that have been there and any one of them will all be more than happy to tell you about their experiences and where they went. You have the opportunity to pan, sluice, high bank, dredge, or even metal detect. There are plenty of places to try your hand at each with the chance of being fairly successful. For example, GPR member Jack Meineke is working on the Kenai Peninsula in Ninilchik this summer for Afishunt Charters and he will be hitting some of the GPAA claims there. GPR member Clarence Douthett owns property and has claims in the Fairbanks area. The GPAA has claims all over the Kenai Peninsula as well as throughout the rest of Alaska. GPR board member Joe Fortunato brought back 10 ounces of gold nuggets alone on his trip last year, and is going up there again this year. GPR board members Janine Ballentine and Joe Johnston are going to be on the GPAA Cripple River trip this summer. Dale and Gale Herbertson will also be in Alaska this summer along with several other members. A number of others, including myself, have been up there in the past and will probably be going again. Because the Alaska experience is a unique one, I highly encourage each of you who can possibly make it work for you, to try it at least once. And if you have mastered the basics of prospecting skills such as becoming a fairly good panner, knowing how to set up your sluice box effectively and efficiently, and knowing how to use a high banker or even a dredge, the Alaska experience can be much easier and far more enjoyable. You are able to do more without wasting the time of having to be taught how to use the equipment after you get up there. Far better to learn the techniques here and then put them to use up there. Most of the equipment is available for rent pretty much anywhere you go.

Lots of folks have done the cruise line trips up to Alaska and back and that is great. It is truly awesome and spectacular scenery no matter where you go up there and a camera should never be far from your hand, no matter which type of trip you decide to take. If you can afford it, I highly recommend you take both trips.

But beware...!!! Alaska can also be a very dangerous place. Grizzly bear and black bear are everywhere and you have to be cautious and pay attention. Besides dangerous animals, the terrain and weather can also be very dangerous. You must be prepared for anything and everything and never take anything for granted. As I have stated many times before, Mother Nature will constantly test you and when you least expect it. The unwary and unprepared are the easiest and the first victims.

Well, that is about all I have from here for now. So 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

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

The V.P. Corner by "Klondike" Mike

Colorado History #15

Life was getting more complex. We move ahead to what they call the (Stampede). On May 7, 1859, Denver welcomed its first stagecoach. And on May 17 the first Leavenworth & Pikes Peak express coach rolled into after a nineteen day trip across the prairie. Also in May, John Gregory really did strike it rich in the mountains west of town. The stampede began



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

all over again. At once the Cherry Creek settlements came to life with a vitality that far eclipsed the activity of '58. Log shacks left unfinished during the winter were hurriedly completed. New log and framed houses sprang up with the spring flowers. More merchants flocked in with more supplies and new businesses mushroomed. A dozen saloons and gambling halls opened to accommodate the boom- town rush of parasites. Card sharks, prostitutes, and assorted scum drifted in to set up their various and devious schemes for fleecing the miners as soon as the mountains should began to disgorge the precious gold.

Sprinkled among the shady types were a few honest citizens. There were the merchants and the real estate men who plotted streets, sold business lots, and built homes. They managed the rough board walks to carry pedestrian traffic-fronted buildings in vogue at the time. They even equipped a few of the more pretentious business houses with sidewalk benches where customers and idlers could sit and watch the strange parade of frontier life.

Again if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 720-443-9545. Klondike Mike

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger By Linda Luchtenburg

For the month of June, we will be giving away a total of 7.1 grams of gold with the largest being 2.1 grams. We have reached that moment when we will be giving away the members only ' 14 gram Special Nugget' this month. It will be your last chance to buy tickets up through the break and then we will draw the winner. We would like to give a special 'Thank You' to the GPAA, Jim Long, Mike Hurtado and Bill Duncanson for donating items to the May general drawings.

The Club Now Accepting Credit Cards

The Board of Directors have approved accepting credit cards from members for certain purchases. Starting in March, 2013, the Club will accept credit cards for the payment of dues, member badges, and any products from the Club Store. The Club will not accept credit cards for the purchase of any drawing tickets as those must be made in cash only. A service fee of \$0.50 will be attached to each \$15.00 of payment made. Cards accepted will be Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

Membership Committee

We are well on our way to getting the name badges changed over to the new numbering. If possible, could you ask that everyone bring their badges to the next meeting to get the rest of them changed over? There are still a few that don't think they need their badges for the meetings. Oh well. We didn't collect any this month because we didn't know who would need their badges prior to the next meeting.

See ya at the meeting.

Pam

GPR June Meeting Program:

The June meeting will feature a 2 part 60 minute video on 'Finding Gold with Slui9cebox Sam' and we will show the first 30 minute part at this meeting with part 2 to be shown in July. We hope to see you all there!

Board Meeting Minutes From May 2013

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	Roger Biri
X	Mike Hurtado	X	Joe Johnston		Terry Weatherly		Gary Hawley
X	Linda Luchtenburg	X	Janine Ballentine	X	Andy Doll		

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By JJ at 6:03 pm

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

Treasurer's Report: Questions: None Approved: yes

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

A one (1) ounce nugget of gold is more rare than what other naturally object?



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

Correspondence: 5 phone calls, 4 e-mails, 4 mailings

Committee Reports: CR on new products is tabled pending finding new vendors. CR on m/d outing not available. No other CR's at this time.

Webmaster: Total Hits 129574 Hits for last month 545.

Unfinished business: Still finalizing revisions for 'Find of the Month' Committee

New Business: Mike H. discussed establishing a 'Life Membership' for Club members. Tabled for future ideas along this line.

Planned Outings for 2013: As of this date, we now have a number of Outings scheduled and confirmed and more being planned. Refer to Outings Calendar/Schedule in Newsletter for dates

From the Board:

- Pres Long reported BM Don Luchtenburg has resigned due to his health. We will ask for interested persons during meeting.
- Panning Class on May 11 went great. JJ thanked Joe F. for his help. About 12 folks attended.
- The St. Jo. Missouri Pony Express Gold Prospectors will be on Clear Creek on July 14 for a week. JJ and Mike H. will visit with them.
- We are working with JeffCo and Adams Co to adopt part of the hwy 6 portion of Clear Creek from Hwy 119 down to Mayhem Gulch and Lower Clear Creek between Washington and Broadway.
- Joe J. advised the Foothills Chapter GPAA has invited our members to their Twin Lakes Outing June 7, 8, 9. Will hand out a flyer in meeting.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting June 19, 2013 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting June 19, 2013 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: A video by Don Robinson on 'Gold Panning'.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:50pm.

2013 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Mike Hurtado

Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Luchtenburg

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2010)

Joe Shubert (2011)

1 Year Board Members

Joe Fortunato

Terry Weatherly

Andy Doll

Don Luchtenburg

Roger Biri

Janine Ballentine

General Meeting Minutes From May 2013

1. Meeting was opened at 7:04pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1396.40 an ounce, silver at \$22.84, platinum at \$1490.70 and palladium at \$730.50.
3. Web hits for last month reflected 545 hits for the last 30 days.
4. **Pres. Long** announced that tonight's program will be a 30 minute video on 'Gold Panning' by Don Robinson.
5. **Treasurer Linda Luchtenburg** reported that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, we are still selling tickets for the new 'Members Only' drawing for a large 14 gram nugget. We are very close to giving it away in the next month or two. She thanked everyone for catching up on their annual dues.
6. **Pam and George Schmitt** reported from the Membership Table that approx. 92 members were in attendance. There were 5 guests and 4 new members in attendance as well. The meeting attendance was 101.
7. **Pres. Long** read the '**Question of the Month**', which was 'The Mother Lode in California was primarily found in 5 different Counties. Name 3 of those 5 counties.'
8. **Pres. Long** advised that there were a couple of entries of gold on the 'Find of the Month' table and everyone was encouraged to check them out and vote accordingly.
9. **John Johnson** presented the 2013 Cache Clue #5 to the membership in attendance.
10. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that we were in the process of planning the 2013 outings and confirmed a number of dates that were under review or confirmed. Refer to the Outings Schedule in the Newsletter. The next Outing will be at the Clay County Mine on May 18, followed by the Tour of the Leadville Mining museum and the Matchless Mine on June 1. This tour costs 15.00 a head. On June 15, we will be touring the Western Mining museum in Colo. Sprgs. The GPOC is hosting the Colorado Gold Panning Championships in Cripple Creek on June 28,29,20. Check out the flyers on the front table. The Beginners Class on May 11 went very well and



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

everybody had a good time. The Trash cleanup/prospecting Outing on April 27 was extremely successful and it is obvious that this Club has the biggest turnout of all the local Clubs and Pres. Long thanked everyone for their interest and participation. Our members are why this is the best Club and the largest in the Denver area. The runoff is in progress and we don't expect the water to be dangerously high, but still, be very careful out there until the runoff is over. The St. Jo. Missouri Pony Express Gold Prospectors will be on Clear Creek July 14 and your Pres. and Vice Pres. will meet with them and welcome them to Colo.. Pres. Long thanked whoever gave him the book titled 'Silver Saga'. It is a really good book. BM Don Luchtenburg has had to resign due to health reasons. We are therefore seeking a volunteer interested in working on the Board. The Club is pursuing the opportunity to 'adopt' hwy 6 from hwy 119 downstream to Mayhem Gulch in JeffCo as well as lower Clear Creek from Washington to Broadway in Adams County. This will mean more cleanups in the future and we will see highway signs with our name on them along hwy 6 and along the bike path in Adams Co.. More info to come in future.

11. There was no additional input from the Floor, therefore,
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:10pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:35pm.
13. **Sue Clover** announced that there were 52 winners of the 'Question of the Month' and that the answer was 'El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Toulumne, and Mariposa Counties. Any 3 named was a winner. The winners all received a free red ticket for the evenings gold drawings.
14. The evening was concluded with drawings for numerous door prizes followed by drawings for the gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets 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 can choose to donate the tickets back to the Club. Those assisting Pres. Long in the drawings were **Chuck Cohn** and **Linda Luchtenburg**.
15. **Pres. Long** thanked **Kris and Joe Kafka** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. With the number of attendees skyrocketing recently, 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.
16. The scheduled **Program for June will be** a video on 'Finding Gold' by Sluicebox Sam. This video will be run in 2 parts, each running 30 minutes. We will watch Part 1 in June.
17. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Schedule of 2013 Planned Outings:

- 3-6 Sat Panning Demo at Western Coliseum for Rky Mtn Horse Expl 2-4 pm
- 4-27 Sat Trash cleanup/lunch/prospecting Outing on lower Clear Creek. Meet behind Tymkovich's 6811 Washington 9am -dark. Remember, no motorized equipment is allowed in Adams County.
- 5-11 Sat Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class at Tymkovich Meats, 6811 N. Washington , 9am
- 5-16 Thur Panning Demo, Aurora Water Festival, 9a-3p.
- 5-18 Sat Prospecting Outing, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9am. (Clay County Mine)
- 6-1 Sat Tour of Leadville Mining Museum and Matchless Mine, 10am, !5.00 @ person.
- 6-15 Sat Rescheduled Tour of the Western Mining Museum in Colo. Sprgs. At 10am.**
- 6-22 Sat Prospecting Outing in Nederland at 9a. Glass cleanup contest.**
- 7-13 Sat Prospecting Outing on lower Clear Creek between Washington and Broadway, 9am**
- 7-26, 27, 28 Prospecting Outing on Lake Creek, Leadville w/the Illinois Gold Seekers Club, 5.00 @ day @ person, bbq sat nite.**
- 8-1 Sat Panning Demo for Japanese Exch Students, Idaho Spgs, 1p-4p.**
- 8-17 Sat Club Picnic at Lions Park in Golden 11a-2p, East Pavilion**
- 8-24 Sat Prospecting Outing Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9a. (Clay County Mine)**
- 9-5,6,7 Highlands Ranch Festival Panning Dem, will be a sign up sheet.**
- 9-21 Sat Idaho Springs Festival Panning Demo, will be a sign up sheet.**
- 9-28 Sat Trash Cleanup/prospecting Outing, Lower Clear Creek, 9a at 6811 Washington.**



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

Additional dates/outings are also under consideration.

Colorado State Annual Gold Panning Championships

WHERE: Downtown Cripple Creek North side of Bennett Ave. Between 3rd and 4th St.

WHEN: JUNE 28 - 30, 2013 (9 - 5 All 3 days)

WHAT: Daily Competitions Include: Old Timers, National Style, Team, Women, Juniors, Men, Colorado State, World's Dry

Have fun learning to pan for Gold and Gem Stones!

Sponsored by: Colorado Springs - **Gold Prospectors of Colorado**

For More Information Contact: Big Ben 719-217-0923 (leave message)

Beginners "How To" Class

On Saturday, May 11, President Long conducted a Class on Clear Creek at 68th and Washington for beginning prospectors and others who wanted to sharpen up on their panning and sluicing skills. He was joined by 12 folks who wanted to learn a little and that is exactly what we did. After discussing where gold comes from and learning how to read a stream and where to look to find the gold, we learned the basics of panning and how to break in our new pan. We also learned how important it is to classify your material before panning. Then everybody got to practice with some concentrates that I had dug from the stream earlier.

After ensuring that everyone was able to pan down to the black sand, we then learned how to pan the gold out of the black sand. We also learned that there is no substitute for patience and practice. We then moved over to a sluice box that GPR Board member Joe Fortunato had previously set up. The sluice box was a 'perfect set' and we showed everybody the important points involving water flow and drop as well as having a stable platform and a 'vortex' at the opening of the box. We then ran an entire bucket of concentrates dug from the stream.

Everyone learned how to easily clean up the sluice and I showed the value of rough panning the material at the stream to reduce the concentrates taken home. Most people take way too much home and a lot of that material is non-gold bearing. Having reduced the entire bucket to less than a cup full, I then panned a teaspoon to show people how much gold could be extracted. I will let the attendees tell you how much gold there was, but it was significant, especially for Clear Creek. I managed to get a few photos that were taken by myself and Linda Luchtenburg. My special thanks to Joe Fortunato for all his help with the class which was very successful and productive.



Prospecting/Mining Notes:

From the Denver Post

The 50th Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show - Out of the Heavens! Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 7 - 9, 9am to 5pm (Sunday until 4pm) Western Museum of Mining & Industry

This year's eventful weekend, produced by our partners from the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, centers around an extraterrestrial rock that CRASHED through a home in Canon City, Colorado, with a special exhibit on meteorites from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science! This will be an adventure that includes: *Keep What You Find* gold panning lessons from the Gold Prospectors of Colorado; crystal, gem and jewelry exhibits and vendors; powerful working engines; the shrill whistle of our enchanting steam shovel; the rumble of our compressed air trammer; and the truly, one-of-a-kind operation of our thundering, 1890's Stamp Mill Gold and Silver Refinery; and more for the entire family! Cost is



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6

\$5 for 13 and older; under 13 FREE! Call 719-488-0880 for more information. See the GPR Calendar for additional dates and events.

Molycorp, a Greenwood Village based rare earth developer and the largest gold producer in America, continues to report losses. This seems to be a quarterly thing with this company. The last 2 years has seen this company struggling constantly to stay above water.

Wyoming's newest uranium mine could account for a substantial portion of the state's production over the next several years. The Cameco Resources' North Butte Mine is located just west of Wright in Campbell County.

5-30-13 Protesters vow to stop Newmont in Peru. Hundreds of protesters were locked in a standoff with police in northern Peru on Wednesday as they vowed to stop Newmont Mining from transferring water from a lake to a reservoir as part of its \$5 billion dollar Conga gold project. Newmont Mining is a Colorado firm that operates rare earth mineral operations worldwide. The recent clash came after the government of Peruvian President Ollanta Humala said that it would stop trying to overcome local opposition to the mine.

6-1-13 Mine cleanup set to begin. Toxic waste cleanup is set to begin in June at the Pennsylvania Mine in Summit County, which has been releasing heavy metals into waterways for more than a century. The project is expected to cost 3 million dollars and last 3 years.

6-1-13 Oregon set to ban dredging. Recently, the Oregon State Legislature voted to approve SB838 which will ban small scale mining operations on Oregon's waterways by imposing a 5 year moratorium on suction dredging and SB401 which will declare 14,000 miles of Oregon waterways as 'scenic waterways'. It looks as if they are going to follow California's insanity.

6-1-13 The Lander, Wyoming Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management released its Resource Management Plan in February. We have now learned that they recommend closing 449,068 acres of public land to procurement of locatable minerals. That means all forms of mining. This area mostly involves Fremont and Natrona Counties (Pinedale region) and will affect several GPAA claims as well as numerous private claims. This Resource Plan is set to guide the Wyoming State BLM policy for the next 20 years. my continues to weaken. Copper fell to \$3.18 per pound, down 16% from its all-time high of \$3.78 a pound.

Clay County Mine Prospecting Outing

Wow!! What a great day for an Outing. We had some 45 folks show up for this prospecting outing. The weather this year turned out to be perfect, a little cloudy and cool but not hot. And it did not rain, sleet, hail, and snow on us like it did last year and we had no flash flood to deal with like last year either. The claim owner expanded the area we could work in and had several tailing piles that he had dug just for our use as well. This outing was not too far from Blackhawk and is on private property. We did have a small amount of running water in the creek bed this year and this is usually a very dry claim.

After digging our buckets of dirt, some of us utilized what little water there was on site, but most of us took our buckets of dirt down to Clear Creek Canyon Park to process. We found the gold to be plentiful, though primarily flour gold, and very yellow and pretty as always. Digging in primarily dry areas does bring its challenges but where there is a will, there is always a way to get to the gold.

Lots of thanks go to your VP, Mike Hurtado, for ensuring that this outing always goes as well as possible. He has developed a strong relationship with the claim owner and we will be up there again later this year for a second helping. I managed to get a few photos in between digging buckets of gold.



Everybody hard at work up and down the creek bed



Got gold..??



JJ and Janine's Covote



June has Three Birthstones

June counts three gems as birthstones, pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

PEARL Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as *the pearl age*. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.



ALEXANDRITE A relatively modern gem, *Alexandrite*, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone).

MOONSTONE The third birthstone for June is the *Moonstone*. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called *adularescence*) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called *feldspar*, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.



Bottom of Form

(Reprinted from Internet Google site of Gemstone.com)

A Miner's Laugh

An Irish Prospector name O'Malley, having spent many, many years all alone, finally decided that he would become a priest. After completing all his training, he was eventually transferred to Texas.

Father O'Malley rose from his bed one morning. It was a fine spring day in his new west Texas mission parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station.



The conversation went like this: "Good morning. This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?" "And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Ann 's Catholic Church. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn and would ye be so kind as to send a couple o'yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Sergeant Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit and recognizing the foreign accent, thought he would have a little fun with the good father, replied, "Well now Father, it was always my impression that you people took care of the last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment... Father O'Malley then replied:"Aye, 'tis certainly true; but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin first, which is the reason for me call to ye."

(Taken from the internet and revised just for miners', author unknown)

Hall of Fame Mining Museum and Matchless Mine Tour

On Saturday, June 1, some 17 members of the Club traveled to Leadville to visit and tour the Colorado hall of Fame Mining Museum. The guided tour was very extensive and very informative and consisted of tracing the mining heritage



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

of Colorado from 1859 until present. The Museum has a strong focus on the history of molybdenum from its discovery all the way to its present use and also traces the great history of the Climax Mine and its impact on the Leadville community.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit this Museum, you need to add it to your bucket list of places that you just gotta go visit. A lot of pretty cool stuff in there and the area that is called the mineral room has some truly magnificent specimens on display. We managed to get a few pictures. (Photos by JJ)



Following lunch at the famed and historic Golden Burro restaurant, everyone traveled up to the historic Matchless Mine for a guided tour of the mine that made Horace Tabor a multi-millionaire in the late 1800's. The head frame is about all that remains of this historic mine, along with what was probably the miner's warming shack. This one room cabin later became the home of Elizabeth 'Baby Doe' Tabor until her death in 1933. There remain today, a number of original artifacts that belonged to Baby Doe that are displayed in the cabin.

Many thanks go to Janine Ballentine for organizing this wonderful tour package. (Photos by JJ)



The Matchless Mine head frame being examined by Club members



Members touring the Hall of Fame Mining Museum and Mine

2013 Aurora Water Festival Panning Demo

The Club attended the Aurora Water Festival on May 16 at the Aurora Community College in Aurora. We put on a panning demo for some 750 fifth grade students from approx. 20 different elementary schools over a 5 hour period. The Demo went very well and the participants all had a good time.

I want to thank Mike Hurtado, Brandon Luchtenburg, Andy Doll, Joe Johnston, John House, Nyal Brown, and Ken Wells for all their excellent help in getting this one done. We do this event every year and is just 1 of only about 4 that the Club does each year. Andy Doll and Jim Long managed to take a couple of photographs while we were at it.



A Walk on the Historic Side

What, you may ask, is the story behind Idaho Springs. In 2008, the city of Idaho Springs celebrated their 150th Anniversary of the Colorado Gold Rush.

It all started back in December of 1858 when George Andrew Jackson, a native of Glasgow, Missouri and a veteran of the California gold fields, left his winter camp at the present day site of Golden, Colorado to go on a hunting trip. By January, his companions had gone back but Jackson decided to stay on to explore just a little further. On January 7, 1859, while





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

camped on a sandbar where Chicago Creek flows into Clear Creek with his two faithful dogs Kit and Drum, Jackson decided to pan some of the thawed ground from around his campfire. Scraping out some of the gravel with his hunting knife and panning it with his drinking cup, he washed out gold nuggets with a value of around 9 dollars. He beaded back to Golden determined to keep the news of his discovery secret until he could gather the help and the supplies necessary to work his claim further.

In the spring of 1859, he returned to Chicago Creek with a team of men and supplies. Proceeds in the first 7 days amounted to \$1900.00 dollars. Word spread quickly about his discovery of gold and optimistic prospectors rushed to the area in search of fortunes. Small camps of tents and shacks sprang up through the narrow valley of what is now Idaho Springs. By June 1859, the Jackson Mining District was formally organized, the first recorded in Colorado history. There were 400 people in the settlement. The Colorado Gold Rush was on.

Although small amounts of gold had been found elsewhere in the Territory, none proved to be more than a flash in the pan. Jackson had made the first discovery of significant quantity to warrant further exploration. Everyone knew the placer or loose gold in the streambeds to have been washed down from somewhere so the search for gold moved into the hillsides. The placer discoveries were soon followed by the discoveries of gold veins in the rocks of the canyon walls on both sides of Clear creek, as well as the throughout the surrounding region. Hard rock mining became the mainstay of the area long after the fold bearing gravels were exhausted.

All the activity and excitement brought a continuing influx of people and enterprise to Idaho Springs and the settlement quickly became the social and commercial center of the burgeoning mining area. Schools, churches, assayers, surveyors, mills, laundries, boarding houses, hotels and the railroad combined with a growing population, brought about inevitable talk of a formalized government.

First called Jackson's Diggings, then Spanish Bar and later Idahoe, the name of this bustling community finally became Idaho Springs. The city was organized in 1873. In 1880, the population peaked at 2502 residents. Idaho Springs remained the center of the regional mining district throughout the late 19th century. When non-essential mining was banned in World War II, most of the area mines were forced to close. The boom was over, but Idaho Springs continued as the county's primary center of business and residence.

Idaho Springs continues to benefit from its rich mining heritage. The Idaho Springs Downtown Commercial District was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1984. Several other properties within the city limits are listed on the State or National Registries as well. The Historical Society of Idaho Springs works tirelessly to preserve their history and maintain Idaho Springs' place representing early commercial development in Colorado.

Jackson's 1859 discovery set in motion the biggest gold rush and immigration in American history. As a result, the Colorado Territory was formed in 1861 and a short seventeen years after Jackson's discovery, the State of Colorado was admitted into the Union in 1876. And it all started right there in Idaho Springs.

And that, my friends, is the story, and that is well worth celebrating!!

(As published by the Historical Society of Idaho Springs for the 2008 '150th Anniversary of the Gold Rush' in a special edition of the 'Idaho', the local Idaho Springs Newspaper)



City Hall Building, 17th Avenue & Miner Street

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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 JULY 2013

(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (www.wmmi.org))

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
The Reynolds Ranch Farmer's Market at WMMI Mondays & Wednesdays Starting in late June thru October	2	3	4	INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6 Newsletter Advert/Article Conv Deadline
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 GPR Club Meeting	18	19	20 WMMI Museum Anniversary
21	22	23	24	25 WMMI Stratton Legacy The Myron Stratton Home	26	27
28 Lake Creek Outing 26, 27, 28	29	30	31		Lake Creek Outing 26. 27. 28	
						Korean War Ends