We have concluded another exciting year for the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies. It is now time to start a new one. We have planned a lot of events and outings for this year. It should be a lot of fun and we should find a lot of gold and that is always good. But for how long will we be able to enjoy the opportunity to do so?

I recently read some stuff that Scott Willoughby, an outdoors reporter for the Denver Post had brought to our attention. Scott does a great job of staying on top of this stuff and a lot of it may have an impact on us as prospectors. He was speaking of the transfer of public lands and listed the top ten projects that are out there, some very bad for us all and some very good. Here they are, in order of importance, and you should check them out.

1. **The push to sell off America’s public lands**: A vocal group of lawmakers and activists are demanding that our public lands be transferred to state ownership, or be sold to private interests. This includes some of our national parks. Somewhere along the way, it seems they forgot that public lands as a national trust has been forgotten.

2. **Money earmarked for conservation gets spent elsewhere**: The federal Land and Water Conservancy Fund created to conserve fish and wildlife habitat and increase public access and recreation has been treated as a congressional slush fund and has only been fully funded twice since 1978.

3. **Budgeting restrictions for wildfire management burns up cash**: Since 1991, wildfire suppression costs have risen from 13% to 47% of the USFS budget in 2012, preventing crucial investments in forest and wildfire management.

4. **World’s largest marine reserve embraces recreational fishing**: President Obama’s proclamation expanding the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to six times its former size, also opens it up for recreational fishing. That is utterly mind boggling!!

5. **The BLM updates its national land use planning handbook**: Regulations for managing 245 million acres of public land are being rewritten for first time in 40 years. And they are looking to shut down small scale mining as part of the rewrite.

6. **Public is now denied access to public lands**: Nearly 35 million acres of public lands, an area the size of Alabama, are now virtually off limits to the public. The BLM says this is due to changing demographics.

7. **Gulf of Mexico restoration offers once in a lifetime opportunity**: Up to $20 billion in settlements from the BP oil spill represents an unprecedented opportunity to restore water quality, barrier islands, oyster and sea grass beds, reefs and coastal wildlife habitat in the gulf.

8. **Federal red snapper regulations curtail recreational fishing**: Despite an abundance of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, the federal season for recreational anglers shrank to just 9 days in 2014, and it may be even shorter in 2015.

9. **Pebble Mine refuses to die**: Powerful international mining interests are redoubling efforts to develop the world’s largest open pit mine in southwest Alaska’s Bristol Bay area, one of the world’s most valuable salmon fisheries.

10. **California water fights distract from Western collaboration**: Sportsmen and Ag interests are putting differences aside to improve irrigation efficiency and devote savings to in-stream flows benefitting wildlife during current far western water droughts.

Now, some of this can have direct results on us miners, and some doesn’t. But many of them will. This list doesn’t even include the dredging issue and other mining fights that are taking place, but to the mining community, those issues are every bit as big and important as those listed. The bottom line is this. Those same legislators and activists have deep pockets and they want to take our access to public lands away from us. Period. And they can be very sneaky about it as well as openly blatant. We must be aware of all of these issues and understand how they can and will impact us as small scale miners and outdoor enthusiasts. The world is not so big anymore and is a constantly changing environment. These issues will impact us as miners, hunters, fishermen, boaters, hikers, or whatever it is that you like to do. They don’t even want us taking photos anymore unless we apply for certain ‘photography licenses’. That is some of the insane proposals that are surfacing out there.
As I have said before, becoming informed is being forewarned. I hope all of you will join me and do all that you can to help in any little way that you can. And that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your search….!

And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured ‘Yaller Gold’!

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com

Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

2015 Dues are Due on January 1, 2015 for ALL

The V.P. Corner by “Klondike” Mike

I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year and thank the Lord for giving me one more year on this Earth. It doesn’t seem possible but it has been a year since my heart attack and by-pass surgery. I’d like to give a short history of the first gold finds in what is now Colorado. In 1849-50 several parties of gold seekers heading to the California Gold Rush panned gold from various streams in the South Platte River Valley. This was at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in western Kansas Territory, now northeastern Colorado.

Gold nuggets were found but most gold seekers still headed to California to find their mother lode. When rumors persisted, several small parties of men began to explore the region. The summer of 1857 brought a group of Spanish speaking gold seekers from the New Mexico Territory to a placer deposit along the South Platte River approximately 5 miles above Cherry Creek, which is now Denver’s Overland Park neighborhood. The next year brought gold seeker William Greenberry “Green” Russell to the South Platte. Green led a party of Cherokee from Georgia to help him search for the gold. July 1858 a small placer deposit was found near the mouth of the Little Dry Creek. This area is present day Englewood. Green Russell and Sam Bates would find about 20 Troy ounces (622 grams) of gold. This was the first gold discovery of any significance found in the Rocky Mountain region. The news of this discovery spread quickly and brought an estimated 100,000 gold seekers to the area over the next three years. The Pikes Peak gold rush was under way. Although the placer gold deposits along the rivers and streams played out the miners would soon find much more valuable hard rock gold, silver, and other minerals.

So folks, especially those new people, this is just a short history of the start of gold prospecting in Colorado.

If you have any questions please contact me at 720-443-9545. Klondike Mike

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Linda Luchtenburg

The January Meeting will not feature a nine nugget give away totaling 10.3 grams of gold with the largest nugget being a beauty of 2.8 grams. We will also resume the sales of tickets for the ‘special nugget’. Don’t miss your opportunity to purchase tickets for these nuggets in which your chances of winning are far better than the Colorado Lottery.

Planned GPR Meeting Programs:

Jan 21: The evening’s program will be a 50 minute DVD from the History Channel entitled “The Quest for King Solomon’s Gold”. This is another very interesting program about the history of gold.

Feb. 18: The program for this meeting will be a 25 minute video of The South Dakota Saga which was filmed in 1940 reference the Homestake Mine. This one should be a lot of fun and shows how some of the mining was done circa 1940.

Mar. 18: This month, we will feature a short 30 minute presentation by Deb Zack of the State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety Inactive Mine Program. We anticipate that this will be a very good program and a ‘really need to see’. 
**Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3**

**Apr. 15:** We will be showing another video with pictures and such of the Homestake Mine of South Dakota as filmed in 1985, to show the difference in mining techniques from 1940 to 1985.

**May 20:** We will be presenting a 45 minute presentation by Richard Sweeney on Modern Gold Assaying Techniques. Richard will have some ‘show and tell’ items of the trade and puts on a fantastic program about gold assaying. You don’t want to miss this one!

**Jun. 17** The first of a 2 part video from the Natl. Geographic Channel entitled “Lost Gold of the Dark Ages”. This video uncovers the secrets of the largest hoard of Saxon Gold ever found.

**July 15** This will be part 2 of the NG Channel video “Lost Gold of the Dark Ages”. This will conclude the story of the discovery of the largest hoard of Saxon Gold ever found.

**Where is ‘Prospector Pete’, the GPR Gold Miner?**

We offered up this golden ‘Gold Miner’ statue that was donated to the Club for auction and started the bidding in September. In October, Linda Luchtenburg bought the statue for the Club. We now intend to offer our Gold Miner, called ‘Prospector Pete’, to a lucky recipient by drawing each month. The idea is to take ‘Prospector Pete’ along with you during your travels and take a photograph of you and he doing something related to mining. Take a photograph at the location and bring ‘Pete’ back to the next meeting for the next person to win. Send your photograph of yourself and ‘Pete’ to President Long at jslong945@msn.com and we will publish it in the Newsletter each month. It should be fun to see where our Gold Miner winds up throughout the coming year. There are no limits, just take care of ‘Pete’ and treat him gently and show him the big world out there. At the November meeting, ‘Pete’ selected Andy Doll as his caretaker until the next meeting (see the newsletter last article).

**Board Meeting Minutes From Dec 2014**

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**NO BOARD MEETING FOR DEC 2014**

Quorum present?

**Call to Order:** Reading and Approval of Minutes: Yes

**Corrections:** none…Approved as read/corrected: Yes

**Treasurer’s Report:** Questions: None . Approved: yes

**Correspondence:**

**Webmaster:**

**Committee Reports:**

- Terry W. is working on the LLC application and will get the forms to Pres. Long for filing.

**Unfinished business:** Nothing at this time.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Planned Outings for 2014:**

**From the Board:**

**Announcements:** Next Board Meeting Jan. 21, 2015 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting Jan. 21, 2015 at 7:00pm

**Tonight’s general meeting program:**

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at  pm.
There was no general meeting held. We did conduct a Pot Luck Dinner Program.

1. Program was opened at 6:25 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that dinner was served. **Linda Luchtenburg** played some Christmas Music on the piano and flute for the attendees while they visited the buffet line and visited.
3. **Pres. Long** started the program at 7:30 pm with a greeting to everyone for attending. There were 88 members and their family present. Pres. Long then introduced the primary volunteers who serve the Club at each of the monthly meetings and presented them with a small gift as well as a Certificate of Appreciation. Recognized were **Chris and Joe Kafka** for their work operating the monthly refreshment table. Also, **Pam and George Schmitt** for their operation of the Club Store each month. **Chuck Cown** for helping at the ticket sales desk as well as the drawings. **John Johnson** for running the Membership Table, and **Sue Clover** for the Question of the Month program.
4. **Pres. Long** then had his elves pass out a small Christmas gift to each attendee. Following that, each elected Board of Director for 2014 was introduced and received a Certificate of Appreciation for their service to the Club during the previous year. Recognized were **Mike Hurtado, Andy Doll, Roger Biri, Brandon Luchtenburg, Linda Luchtenburg, Joe Schubert, Joe Fortunato, Terry Weatherly, Pam Schmitt**, and **Joe Johnston**. **Bobby Manning** and **John Johnson** were introduced as being elected to the 2015 Board and they will be replacing **Roger Biri** and **Pam Schmitt**.
5. **Pres. Long** then recapped the 2014 list of activities and events. The Club conducted 3 tours, cancelling only 1 as a result of inclement weather. We also conducted 7 panning demos throughout the year which brought additional income into the Club. We conducted 1 metal detecting hunt and 2 Beginners Classes throughout the year. There were a total of 6 prospecting outings conducted, although we had to cancel 1 due to high and dangerous water. We finished the year with a Club picnic and the Club Dinner.
6. **Pres. Long** then passed out Certificates of Achievement for the winners of the Finds of the Year Program. **Adam Wilson and Cara Dauderman** were recognized for the Artifact of the Year. Best Bottle went to **Sue Duncanson** and the Best Jewelry category went to **Brandon Luchtenburg**. Best Coin went to **Joe Johnston**, and the Most Raw Gold category went to **Todd Fidler**.
7. **Pres. Long** then conducted the Gold Elephant gift exchange. We then conducted a drawing for 12 door prizes which consisted of 3 miniature sluice boxes, 3 free annual memberships, 3 gold nuggets and 3 special gemstones/minerals.
8. **Pres. Long** then introduced the **2014 Ken Barker Award recipient is John Johnson**. John received a 100 dollar bill and a nice Certificate of Recognition suitable for framing and his photo will be placed in the Ken Barker Gallery on the web site.
9. **Linda Luchtenburg** made the center pieces for each dining table and Pres. Long had a lady at each table selected to take the pieces home with them.
10. Everyone attending the program enjoyed good food, good fellowship, and a good time. Pres. Long thanked everyone for their membership and promised a good year coming up for 2015.
11. The scheduled **Program for January** will be a video entitled “**The Quest for King Solomon’s Gold**”. This is a very good video from the History Channel.

Until next time, remember to prospect safely, live long and be grateful for that golden bounty from the stars, that gleaming magical miracle, called ‘gold’!

The Program was adjourned at 9:00 pm.
Schedule of 2015 Planned Outings:

We are starting another new year and are in the process of scheduling speakers and programs, outings, tours and other events for the year. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact a Board Member with your ideas and information. We want to try to provide the things you are interested in. We tentatively have at least 20 or more events planned for 2015, as follows:

Jan 24 Sat **Tour** at the Phoenix Gold Mine in Idaho Sprgs, 800 Trail Creek Rd, 10a, $8.00 per person.

Feb 21 Sat **Tour** of the Money Museum, Colorado Springs, 10:30a, $4.00 per person.

Mar 21 Sat **Tour** of the School of Mines Geology Museum, time to be determined.

Mar 28 Sat **Beginners Panning/sluicing Class** at 6811 N Washington, 9am-12noon, bring only your pan, rubber gloves, rubber boots, a snuffer bottle & a vial for your gold.

Apr 11 Sat **Prospecting Outing**, Clear Creek, 6811 N. Washington St., Adams County, 9am-5pm, bbq at noon.

May 14 Thur **Panning Demo**, Aurora Water Festival, 9am-2pm. Will need 8 volunteers.

May 16, 17 Sat/Sun **GPAA Denver Gold Show**, at Denver Stock Show Coliseum, Hall of Education, 9a-4p each day, will need several volunteers for Friday Set up, manning GPR booth both days, and tear down Sun at 3-5pm.

Jun 6 Sat **Prospecting Outing**, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9am (Clay County Mine). This is a dry claim.

Jun 20,21 S,Su **Panning Demo**, Georgetown Loop RR, 9:30-4p each day. Need 8-9 volunteers per day.

July 22 Tue **Panning Demo** for Japanese Exchange Students, Idaho Spgs, 1p-4p.

July 31, Aug 1,2 F,S,Su **Prospecting Outing**, on Lake Creek, Leadville, 5.00 @ day @ person, bbq sat. Nite @ 5.00 @ person, some camping on property, $2.00 @ day. This is Fri, Sat, Sun. 3-day event.

Aug 8 Sun **Beginners Panning/sluicing Class** at 6811 N Washington, 9am-12noon, bring only your gold pan, rubber gloves, rubber boots, a snuffer bottle & a vial for your gold.

Aug 22 Sat **Prospecting Outing**, Lake Gulch, Blackhawk, 9am. (Clay County Mine). Is a dry claim.


Sept 4,5,6 T,F,S **Panning Demo**, Highlands Ranch Festival, 9a-2p each day, there will be a sign up sheet.

Sept 12,13 S,Su **Panning Demo**, Georgetown Loop RR, 9:30-4p each day. Need 8-0 volunteers per day.

Sept 19 Sat **Panning Demo**, Idaho Springs Festival, 10a-3pm, there will be a sign up sheet.

Sept 26 Sat **Club Picnic** at Cross Park, 20th and Carr, Lakewood, Pot Luck, 12 noon-3pm.

Oct 3 Sat **Prospecting Outing**, Clear Creek, 6811 N. Washington St., Adams County, 9am-5pm, bbq at noon.

Oct 21 Wed **Pumpkin Carving Contest**, regular meeting night, compete for prizes

Oct 17 Sat **Panning Demo** for Arapahoe County Fall Festival, 8181 S. Parker Rd, 10a-3p

Nov 7 Sat **Metal Detecting Outing**, Majestic View Park, Arvada, 10a-1p. Prizes to be won.

Dec-16 Wed **Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner**, members only, no regular meeting, arrive at 6pm, eat at 6:30.
Finds of the Month

Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. Winners each month will have their name published each month in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. This contest resumes in January.

What is an ‘Arrastra’?

An Arrastra (or Arastra) is a primitive mill for grinding and pulverizing (typically) gold or silver ore. The simplest form of the arrastra is two or more flat-bottomed drag stones placed in a circular pit paved with flat stones, and connected to a center post by a long arm. With a horse, mule or human providing power at the other end of the arm, the stones were dragged slowly around in a circle, crushing the ore. Some arrastras were powered by a water wheel; a few were powered by steam or gasoline engines, and even electricity. Arrastras were widely used throughout the Mediterranean region since Phoenician times. The Spanish introduced the arrastra to the New World in the 1500s. The word "arrastra" comes from the Spanish language arrastre, meaning to drag along the ground. Arrastras were suitable for use in small or remote mines, since they could be built from local materials and required little investment capital. For gold ore, the gold was typically recovered by amalgamation with quicksilver. The miner would add clean mercury to the ground ore, continue grinding, rinse out the fines, then add more ore and repeat the process. At cleanup, the gold amalgam was carefully recovered from the low places and crevices in the arrastra floor. The amalgam was then heated in a distillation retort to recover the gold and the mercury was saved for reuse. For silver ore, the patio process, invented in Mexico in 1554, was generally used to recover the silver from ore ground in the arrastra.

What is a Jig?

Jig concentrators are devices used mainly in the mining industry for mineral processing, to separate particles within the ore body, based on their specific gravity (relative density). The particles would usually be of a similar size, often crushed and screened prior to being fed over the jig bed. There are many variations in design; however the basic principles are constant: The particles are introduced to the jig bed (usually a screen) where they are thrust upward by a pulsing water column or body, resulting in the particles being suspended within the water. As the pulse dissipates, the water level returns to its lower starting position and the particles once again settle on the jig bed. As the particles are exposed to gravitational energy whilst in suspension within the water, those with a higher specific gravity (density) settle faster than those with a lower count, resulting in a concentration of material with higher density at the bottom, on the jig bed. The particles are now concentrated according to density and can be extracted from the jig bed separately. In the mining of most heavy minerals, the denser material would be the desired mineral and the rest would be discarded as floats (or tailings). There are some minerals, notably coal, that are lighter (lower in density) than the surrounding rock and in such instances the process of
Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

extraction would work in reverse, i.e. the coal would settle on top with the rock below (on the jig bed). There are several designs and methods of extraction from the jig bed.

(Taken from the National Jewelers Association and the AmericanGemSociety.Org web sites)

Prospecting/Mining Notes  (mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

12-6-14 Tribe seeks Break from Obama’s effort:  The Chairman of the coal dependent Crow Nation wants a break from the Obama Administration’s climate proposal and said Friday that the pending rule violates the government’s trust responsibility to the Montana tribe. Up to two thirds of the tribe’s revenue comes from a 15,000 acre coal mine near Hardin. The tribe wants the government to replace the jobs and services that would result of the coal industry suffers.

12-11-14 Coal Miner Raises $700 Million:  Douglas County based Westmoreland Coal Co. raised $700 million of high yield debt after selling junk bonds and a loan in equal parts with yields higher than we originally offered. Westmoreland issued $350 million at 8.75% senior secured bonds due 2022 at 98.708 cents on the dollar to yield 9%. The borrowings refinance notes due in 2018.

12-28-14 Gold goes Nowhere in 2014, Boding ill for 2015:  Gold has had a terrible 2014, starting the year just over 1200 and closing just under that mark in all likelihood. This after taking a 27% fall in 2013. But considering all the ongoing world issues that drove the world economies down aside from our own, the global economy continues to look shaky. Yet gold has gone nowhere and is actually down 5% for 2014. That doesn’t look good for 2015. The bullish case for gold has been predicated on its ability to act as insurance against financial chaos brought about by quantitative easing, war or some other supposed trigger. Yet none of these things has prevented the fall of gold by a third from its all-time peak in 2011. Gold’s biggest problem is that it is an expensive investment with negative yield given storage and insurance costs. And that will matter more as real interest rates climb with the Fed edging toward ending its zero rate policy.

12-30-14 Tribute to Jerry Hobbs:  It is with extreme sadness and regret that Public Lands for the People announced the passing of one of its founders, Jerry Hobbs. Jerry passed away peacefully in his sleep Dec. 28th, 2014, after six weeks of struggling with heart issues. He will be missed terribly by Public Lands for the People, the mining community and especially by his family and friends. The Board of Directors for Public Lands for the People pledged to continue to carry the torch in the fight for public lands and mining rights. They have always been committed to doing this, but they are now even more determined to do so in Jerry’s honor. In lieu of flowers, it was Jerry’s wish that people would join PLP; not only donating funds, but getting involved, volunteering to link arms in the cause that he gave his life represented. Some men seem larger than life by their size, others by what they accomplish in life. Jerry was definitely the latter. He accomplished so much in his life for small scale miners, and especially for property rights and for freedom granted us by the Constitution, that any one tribute could not cover it all. Jerry was a mountain of a man when it came to fighting to keep our Public Lands rights, and he stood up to everyone no matter the odds, fighting for what he knew to be right, fair and just. He was a visionary, seeing the onslaught of the environmentalist groups and government regulations long before anyone else hardly had an inkling of the threat to our freedom. He was rare in that he not only identified the threats, but acted proactively to thwart those threats by forming what is now known as Public Lands for the People, a 501-c3 non-profit organization that has been spearheading the fight to restore dredging rights in California over the last 5 years, as well as many other, lesser known battles (with many victories!).

A Miner’s Laugh

An old miner was driving and saw a truck stalled on the side of the highway that had ten penguins standing next to it. The miner pulled over and asked the truck driver if he needed any help. The truck driver replied, "If you can take these penguins to the zoo while I wait for AAA that will be great!" The old miner agreed and the penguins hopped into the back of his car. Two hours later, the trucker was back on the road again and decided to check on the penguins. He showed up at the zoo and they weren't there! He headed back into his truck and started driving around the town, looking for any sign of the penguins, the man, or his car. While driving past a movie theater, the truck driver spotted the guy walking out with the ten penguins. The truck driver yelled, "Hey, what are you doing? You were supposed to take those penguins to the zoo!" The old miner replied, "I did and then I had some extra money so I took them to go see a movie!"
Latest on California Dredging Case

Public Lands for the People (PLP) were in court Friday December 12, 2014, for a hearing to enjoin the State Water Resources Control Board into the consolidated lawsuits. Judge Ochoa’s tentative ruling was he denied our petition to enjoin with the. State Water Resources Control Board "disappointing”? Yes. However the judge lifted the stay on one of the legal proceedings and will rule on the federal preemption issues the first week of January 2015. This is good! We were pursuing this ruling way back before May 2014! The State argued for the judge not to rule until after the State Supreme court has had a chance to look at the Reinhart case. The judge dismissed that pleading and said that he was not sure that the Supreme Court would hear the case and that the Reinhart decision was published and gives him direction. This is also good!

We are scheduled to resume the settlement conference January 23, 2015. The lawyers for the state and others who want to take away our Federal rights, appeared to be very uncomfortable with the ruling. I think I enjoyed that the most! NOTE: PLP will need funding to follow this through ASAP! Join us with your membership dues and donations as we are on the verge of major accomplishments here. Become a member or renew your membership in PLP and lets ”TAKE IT BACK AND KEEP IT!” WWW.PLP1.ORG

Want to go to Nome, Alaska..?

Richard Spoor is a building construction specialist who has purchased some property in Nome, Alaska, and is looking to develop it into local housing. He is in need of people who are skilled in electrical work, plumbing, general construction and is willing to work with such interested individuals to explore possibilities that may exist which would benefit all parties. Nome has a short building season, generally from June 1 through mid-September. If you are interested in such an adventure, call Richard at (720) 333-2120. (Ps…there is gold in Alaska, and especially Nome!!)

WHERE PROSPECTOR PETE WENT

Where Was Prospector Pete in Nov. While you were FREEZING, he was, in spirit only, on a cruise in the Caribbean looking for pirate treasure. Finding NONE he came back with us to Colorado to find some real gold. Cleaning up the summers concentrates in my garage with the grandkids.

2015 Dues are Due on January 1, 2015 for ALL
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For information to publish your “Ad” in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months’ issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*

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**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Feb 2015**

(WMII - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 [www.wmii.org])

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*Feb 12: WMII Molybdenum and the History of the Climax Mine*