

THE GOLD NUGGET

October 2016

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



Things Caller: "Yeah, my name is Joe Smith and I just bought a metal detector and I want to go find some gold nuggets. Can you tell me where to go?"

Me: "You bet I can. Try Nevada, Arizona, California, Alaska or even Australia."

Caller: "Well, actually I wanted to look here in Colorado because I live here."

Me: "I understand that but you are about 10 years too late to really expect to have any luck whatsoever around here unless you have access to private property that contains tailing piles and old mine sites."

And you should expect to spend hours if not days, learning how to use your equipment, And don't forget that it will require a lot of research and scrutinizing maps when you go out of state. That is what all the rest of us do.

Caller: "Shoot, I thought it would be a lot easier than that!"

Me: "Yeah, I know, so does everybody else!"

I can't begin to tell you how many phone calls I get that go pretty much just like that. Since the dramatic rise in gold prices several years ago, the interest in gold prospecting and metal detecting has increase to record numbers. And the sad part of it is that a lot of folks just don't give it any real serious thought. Like, hey, how hard can it be, right? I see that a lot of the mining related magazines and stuff make it sound easy and relatively simple to do and they always rave and brag about their successes. But what the magazines don't talk about is just how few people are actually successful enough to somewhat qualify as making a living prospecting or detecting. You rarely read about the failures and they don't always tell you how many times they have gone out and came back empty. But yet, there are folks who get caught up in the fever and drop thousands of dollars on equipment and expect to just go right out and hit a strike. Very few people actually go out with very little to no experience and have a lot of success. There is a learning curve involved. The problem with wanting to be 'rich' is that folks want it now and very few people want to invest a lot of time developing experience that will eventually lead to success. I often say that history is the greatest teacher. Just look at the old timers. Thousands of men, and some women, came west to the lure of the discovery of gold, only to find that the few early arrivals had found most of it and staked out their claims on the best ground. Only 1 or 2 percent ever truly struck it rich. And everyone else stayed broke. It is no different today. Absence of exceptional luck, only big money makes a big profit. All of us small money folks just work hard and hope to break even at best.

I don't really know what it is that makes people think that they can succeed without putting in any real effort. I realize that the human spirit is full of dreams and hope and desire. We all have it within us to a degree. But few can make it happen. Many people try to shortcut getting to where they want to go. I used to teach in my previous life, no, not in regular schools, in Academies for Professionals. I used to stress an example that I called the Universal Truth. And that is that no matter what it is in life that you wish for, or want, or desire, you can't get it or achieve it without effort. That nothing from nothing is just nothing. The only way to get anything is that you have to put something into the equation in order to get something back. You think about it...! Pretty simple philosophy, isn't it..? Prospecting and detecting is like that. You have to take the time to learn about how it is done, Research history, read books, watch videos, talk to people, join a Club, hang out with like-minded people, purchase some simple equipment, learn how to use it, learn from others, ask questions, practice, practice, and practice. Then go out and try your hand. There are no short cuts, there is no instant success. But if you cover all the bases, your chances of success increase considerably.

There is no guarantee with prospecting no matter how you go about it. Gold is not just lying on the ground anymore. All that gold was scooped up long ago. There is no more 'easy getting'. It takes effort, developed and enhanced knowledge through research, skill and the right equipment to find gold anymore. Being financially secure helps and there is a lot to be said for having the 'Luck of O'Reilly' as well. All the really good prospectors as well as the good metal detectorists will tell you that. And just remember, all the stories you read about those guys who are finding lots of stuff, are only writing about the successful trips they take. You won't hear a lot about the many other trips they took and struck out completely before they finally found what they were looking for. Gold is where you find it. You can dig a hole and find nothing, yet if you dig just ten feet away, you could find a pocket worth thousands.....maybe. The 'looking' can be difficult and exasperating, but the 'finding' can be euphoric!!

Anyway, 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!!



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The V.P. Corner by “Joe Fortunato



As I sit here in my easy chair. It is 10:50 P.M. Sunday the 25th of September. I will be heading to Nevada to do some detecting for gold in a few days, so I thought this would be as good a time as any to get this month's article completed. My wife, Mary, and I marked our 30th Anniversary in early August. We were both so busy that we didn't have time for anything but a night out for dinner. We finally got to celebrate by spending three fun days together after our last club meeting. Being the thoughtful gal that she is, she had already planned things in advance. Day one consisted of a relaxing drive to Alamosa and dinner at a highly rated local Mexican restaurant. Day two was even better, with a half hour drive to Antonito before boarding the Cumbres & Toltec narrow gauge railroad Parlor Car. The rest of the day consisted of a 64 mile trip back in time through some of the most incredible mountains and valleys on the planet, to Chama, New Mexico. Then a bus ride back to Antonito, and back to Alamosa for another great dinner (Rib-Eye Steak for me, Pasta for Mary) to round out the day. Day three was quite a surprise and speaks volumes about this gal of mine!!! Her plan was, drive to a spot near Granite that I had been researching and do some prospecting and sampling then head for home that night. How could I refuse a plan like that!!! We arrived at the area around mid-day after stopping for lunch in Buena Vista. We got our gear together and hiked the quarter mile or so to the spot I had researched. I set up the sluice box, then we got to work digging and sampling. I would run material through the sluice, while Mary did test pans from the same bucket. We tested three places, got some color in all three, but the gold was smaller than what I expected it to be and there was less of it. I know from past experience that it can take some time to figure out where the gold is when working a new area. Finding gold requires a great deal of thought and patience. We have all heard that gold mining is a game of feet, a foot in one direction and you hit it, a foot in another direction and you miss it!!! After 13 years of chasing gold, I am convinced that gold mining is not only a game of feet, but of feet and inches. Here is a perfect example to prove it. A man and his wife arrived at the area that Mary and I had been sampling. They were from southeastern Kansas and had nothing more than some light hand tools and two gold pans. He asked if we were finding any gold, I told him that we were finding some color but it was small and that there wasn't a lot of it. I walked them to the area and pointed out the three places that Mary and I had sampled. I told them, feel free to dig where you want, and I returned to continue my sampling. An hour or so later as they were about to leave, he asked if we would like to see what they found. I was surprised when he showed us his pan, it had more colors, and they were larger than we had found. I asked where he had dug the material, he said, "right next to that place you were digging". Feet (and inches)?? !!!!

May all your adventures be Golden!!! Comments or questions Call or Text me 303-263-7204

Joe Fortunato

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker



The October Meeting will feature a nine nugget give away totaling 10.3 grams of gold with the largest nugget being a beauty of 2.8 grams. We sell tickets each month for the regular gold nugget drawing which features 9 spectacular gold nuggets as well. There are usually a good number of door prizes as well that could include anything under the sun but is usually mining related. Remember, your chances of winning a nugget are better than the Colorado lottery, so, support your Club and buy lots of tickets. Be sure and consider buying raffle tickets for the "Special Nugget" raffle which features a beautiful 14.4 gram Australian nugget which was a metal detector find.

Planned GPR Meeting Programs:

May 18 This month, we will show Part 1 of a video entitled "Ghosts of the West – The end of the Bonanza Trail".

This video is about Lost Mines, Abandoned Digs and Ghost Towns, some of which was filmed in Colorado by a Colorado Company called Knight Sky Pictures. This will be an interesting look back into the old west and the search for gold.

Oct 19 We will feature Part 5 of "Gold Rush – The discovery of America".

Nov 16 Joe Fortunato will give a presentation on metal detecting for gold nuggets in Nevada.

Dec 21 No general meeting, will be a potluck Christmas Dinner and Recognition Program.



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Where is 'Prospector Pete', the GPR Gold Miner?

On September 3 and 4th, he visited with Pres. Long in Georgetown at the Loop RR and helped tourists pan for gold as they toured the Everett and Lebanon silver mines. That is always fun because there are people from all over the world who do that ride and tour. On September 8, 9, and 10, he was at Highlands Ranch Mansion to demonstrate gold panning to the festival attendees. On September 17, he traveled up to Idaho Springs to attend the festival there and demonstrate gold panning. Then on September 24, he took in the Club picnic at Morse Park in Lakewood. A busy month for Pete!



Board Meeting Minutes From Sept 2016

X	James Long	X	Joe Shubert	X	Joe Fortunato	X	John Johnson
X	Mike Hurtado		Joe Johnston	X	Chris Kafka	X	Brandon Luchtenburg
X	Wayne Schomaker	X	Bobby Manning		Andy Doll		Gary Hawley

Quorum present? Yes

Call to Order: By Pres. Long at 6:04 pm.

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

Treasurer's Report: Questions: none Approved: Yes.

Correspondence: 7 phone calls, 12 e-mails, 9 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 146218 Hits for last 2 month 356.

Committee Reports:

- Kafka's will be gone for Club picnic, will need someone to Cover for them.
- Joe getting surgery in Oct.
- BM Joe S, will have the election stuff ready for announcement in Oct.
- The Board has selected 3 viable candidates for the Barker Award.

Unfinished business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

Planned Outings for 2016:

- Sept 24 Sat Club Picnic Morse Park
- Oct. 1 Sat Prospecting Outing in Blackhawk. 9a til done.
- Oct. 17 Sat Panning Demo, Arapahoe County, see sign-up sheet 10-4p.
- Nov. 5 Sat M/d hunt, Majestic View Park, Arvada. 9a til noon.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the 3 Panned Demos completed in September as well as the Nederland prospecting outing.
- BM Chris K. advised that they will be willing to continue the Refreshment Table but will need 3 months off for Joe's surgery.
- BM Joe S. advised all current Board Members will be re-running for 2017.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting October 19, 2016 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting October 19, 2016 at 7:00pm

Tonight's general meeting program: We will be showing a video from Mill Creek Productions titled "Gold Rush – The Discovery of America", Part 4, which will run 45 minutes.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:53 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Gold can be found beneath the earth on (how many) continents?

2016 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Wayne Schomaker

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2013)

Joe Shubert (2011)

1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

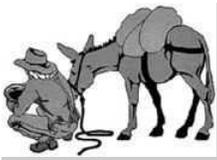
Mike Hurtado

Past President

Gary Hawley

General Meeting Minutes From Sept 2016

1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Long then announced the evening program which will be a video presentation by Mill Creek Productions titled "Gold Rush – The Discovery of America", Part 4 which will run 45 minutes.



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3. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1334.90 an ounce, silver at \$19.82, platinum at \$1050.00 and palladium at \$635.00. Web hits for last month were 356.
4. Treasurer Wayne Schomaker reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the 'Special Nugget' drawing. This is a new and shiny piece of gold that weighs in at 14.4 grams from Australia. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.
5. Dan and Becki McConnell who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 75 members in attendance. There were also 3 guests present. The meeting attendance was 78.
6. Pres. Long read the 'Question of the Month', which was "Shareholders in what Australian mining company will now have the option of collecting their dividend payments in either gold or cash.??
7. Pres. Long 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, 2016. A reminder, gold submissions need to be weighed dry, please.
8. George Sullivan gave the 'Cache – Clue #4. So put on your thinking caps and let's get out there and find it. George is moving to Utah on Sept. 30, and we are gonna miss him. George has been a great friend and has become an accomplished prospector and detectorist.
9. Pres. Long advised that there were lots of stuff in the Club Store for sale. We have bags of sand containing gold for members to buy as well as lots of other stuff, including some new art. Members were encouraged to support the Club by buying Store products. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank Mike Hurtado for helping out at the Store.
10. Pres. Long informed the membership of the 2016 Outings report. The August prospecting outing in Nederland was a success. Winners of the glass contest will be announced after the break. The September Panning Demos in Georgetown, Highlands Ranch and Idaho Springs went well with great weather and large turnouts. The upcoming Outings were discussed. See Board Minutes for details. Members were reminded of the Club picnic on Sept. 24 at Morse Park, eating at noon. We will be announcing Club Elections next month as well as the candidates for the Ken Barker Award. If anyone wishes to run for the Board, we will be welcoming any nominations. Pres. Long is working on arranging speakers for 2017 programs. Don't forget the October meeting Pumpkin Carving Contest. We generally have some very interesting submissions, so get to carving. Pres. Long advised that the Club would be accepting bids for the Meyers Gold Separator set up in the back of the room during the break.
11. Pres. Long also informed the membership that there are handouts at the front desk podium for members to peruse during the break. Members are reminded to check out the Finds of the Month and vote accordingly as well as answer the Question of the Month during the break. Members were reminded to return items checked out of the Library in a timely manner. There was nothing further from the floor.
12. Pres. Long announced the break at 8:12 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:37 pm.
13. Pres. Long announced that the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was "Resolute Mining". There were 37 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. Pres. Long announced the winners of the Nederland Glass Contest. 1st place went to Chris and Joe Kafka, 2nd place went to Pres. Long, 3rd place went to Greg and Dennis Knerl! Well done guys!
15. Pres. Long announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month'. Those were:
16. Best Coin – Joe Johnston with a Buffalo Nicle found while metal detecting in a Denver park.
17. Best Artifact – Sue Hurd with an old nail in a chunk of wood found on a beach in Washington State.
18. Best Jewelry – Dillon cheer with his first ever ring he found while metal detecting.
19. Best Mineral – Lloyd Lauck with a chunk of pyrite and mica found at Youngsfield on Clear Creek.
20. Best Bottle – Robert Ahr with a bottle he found in Rky. Mtn. Lake.
21. Most Raw Gold – Bobby Manning with 0.23 gram nugget he found while prospecting in Gilpin County.
22. Pres. Long concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, Bert Cutshall, Dick Oakes, and Pres. Long, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them



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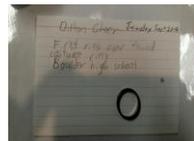
at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were Chuck Cown and Wayne Schomaker.

23. Pres. Long 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.
24. Pres. Long thanked Chris 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. 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.
25. The scheduled Program for October will be Part 5 (the last part) of a video titled "Gold Rush – The Discovery of America", a film by Mill Creek Productions.
26. 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'!
27. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Finds of the Month

The Sept winners and categories are as follows:

- Best Artifact – Winner is Sue Hurd with a spike in wood she found near Mt. St. Helens in Washington State.
- Best Coin – Winner is Joe Johnston with a Buffalo Nickel he found while m/detecting in a Denver park.
- Best Mineral – Winner is Lloyd Lauck with a large hunk of mica he found in Clear Creek.
- Best Jewelry – Winner is Dillon Cheer with a gold ring which is his first ring find ever.
- Largest Raw Gold – Winner is Bobby Manning with a .2 gram nugget he found in Clear Creek.
- Best Bottle – Winner is Bob Ahr with a bottle he found in Rky. Mntn. Lake.

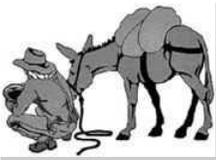


Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. We would all like to know what everyone else is finding out there so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their name published in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Monthly winners will need to save their finds to bring back to the November meeting to compete for the Find of the Year. Thanks to all those who also submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.

September Panning Demos Were Successful

On September 3 and 4, Club Members attended a panning demo in Georgetown at the Loop RR site and helped tourists who ride the train and take the Everett and Lebanon silver mine tours, to pan for the gold that they purchased. Of course, everyone gets to keep the gold they found and we had people from all over the world as well as the US who come to Georgetown to do this railroad ride. It is quite the event and a lot of family fun. My thanks to Jack Meineke, Steve Miller, Jim Peterson and Frank Zahn for coming up and who all helped to make things go great. Pres. Long took a few photos.





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On September 8, 9, 10, Club members conducted a panning demo at the Highlands Ranch Mansion in Highlands Ranch. Thursday and Friday featured lots of kids from Douglas County Elementary Schools and there were lots of other vendors at the festival but, of course, the gold panning demo is a huge draw to the youngsters. My thanks to John Johnson, Bobby Manning, Jack Meineke, Walt Nowakowski, George Sullivan and Frank Zahn who all pitched in to help get it done. Pres. Long managed to get a few photos.



On September 17, Club members traveled to Idaho Springs for the Clear Creek Water Festival to conduct a panning demo for the festival participants. We had a good time doing this one as well and met lots of folks from around the area as well as those passing through who wanted to take a look and try their hand at panning for real gold. My thanks to Mike Hurtado, Jack Meineke, Kevin Singel, Wayne Schumacher and Frank Zahn for coming up and helping out to make things go well. Pres. Long got some photos as usual.



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

Not a whole lot of new news from any source. The Gold King Mine has been declared a priority for superfund cleanup by the EPA, which certainly is no surprise. There were 47 other sites declared to be on the list as well. The BLM is actually considering allowing some western states to do their own mitigation plans for the survival of sage grouse. Idaho Springs is finally getting going on their recovery plan following the EPA clean-up of the ARGO Mine which was declared a Superfund site many years back. The new planned development will be a tremendous boost to the Clear Creek County economy.

Mining Concerns from Around the Country

(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is my opinion, and that is that, like it or not .jj)

There is really nothing new that hasn't already been reported. I do want to note the passing this last month of Marvin Littlefield. Marvin was a past president of the Western Slope Chapter of the GPAA here in Colorado and he was well known in the western Colorado mining community. He had been ill for some time and his passing will leave a hole in the prospecting community of western Colorado. He had been active in trying to protect the rights of prospectors and fighting the BLM to prevent their closure of public lands. The Western Slope Chapter is continuing Marvin's fight.



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The current president of the Western Slope Chapter of the GPAA, Benjamin Crain, has filed a federal law suit claiming discrimination by the government, to include the BLM, USFS, and other entities in failing to provide remedies for disabled and handicapped persons who cannot access our public lands. I have included his letter to his membership concerning the reply from the Department of Justice for your reading:

“To the WSC Members: I received a certified mail envelope from the Department of Interior today not knowing what I had received and a bit scared to open it. If the club remembers we have been involved for years fighting the BLM from taking our land rights away, this was just my first year to join the fight and I learned a lot. The first thing that came to my attention is that the BLM was closing the land off to myself and my wife because we are handicapped, there are massive areas of beautiful land we will never be able to see because the Department of Interior has made them by foot traffic only. But what about the millions of Americans that can't hike in miles on foot, or pack out a deer for miles, or just go and see the Black Canyon's? So while we were communicating with the BLM and filed our complaints I also filed with the Department of Justice and other groups because my rights are being violated, I am being denied access to public lands along with millions of other Americans that our elderly, handicapped, and disabled are being as well. The good news is that the case has been accepted, but I need our members help as well. I would appreciate it is everybody would document how your access to public lands has been denied because you are just not a young whipper-snapper that can hike in on foot. There are those of us with heart disease, those with spinal conditions, those that were injured, those of us that can't breathe well, etc... if you could all please type up a simple statement about how you have been denied access to public lands because your health won't allow it, it would help greatly. Please also add what a easy fix would be. My solution is 4-wheeler access for approved disabled individuals and they have to stick to the trails. I will be in touch with the DOI this week and will give you all a address to send your complaints, and if you know anybody that is being restricted from public lands because they can't take a 4 wheeler there anymore please forward this to them so they can also send a complaint, or just send it to my email.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 bars discrimination against disabled people by a federal agency and that is exactly what the BLM is doing.

Benjamin Crain”

Annual Club Picnic Hosted Good Turnout

On September 24, Club members turned out to attend the Annual Potluck Picnic at Morse Park in Lakewood. Though Fall is definitely in the air, the weather was a mite cooler but very comfortable. Pres. Long did the barbequing and attendees brought side dishes to make for a good time. Thanks to all who attended. Photos by Pres. Long, of course.



A Miner's Laugh

An old miner had won a pair of 50 yard line tickets for the Broncos Super Bowl. As he sat down, he noticed that the seat next to him was empty. He asked the man on the other side of the empty seat whether anyone was sitting there. "No," the man replied, "The seat is empty." "This is incredible," said the first man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the Super Bowl, the biggest sporting event in the world and not use it?" The second man replied, "Well, actually, the seat belongs





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to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This will be the first Super bowl we haven't been together since we got married in 1967." "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. That's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else -- a friend or relative, or even a neighbor to take the seat?"

The man shook his head. "No, they're all at the funeral."

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

Canadian Mint employee accused of smuggling \$180K of gold in his rectum

[Kelly Egan, Ottawa Citizen](#) [More from Kelly Egan, Ottawa Citizen](#)

Published on: September 20, 2016 | Last Updated: September 20, 2016 6:37 PM EDT

An employee of the Royal Canadian Mint allegedly smuggled about \$180,000 in gold from the fortress-like facility, possibly evading multiple levels of detection with a time-honoured prison trick.

Hiding the precious metal up his bum.

The case against Leston Lawrence, 35, of Barrhaven concluded in an Ottawa courtroom Tuesday. Justice Peter Doody reserved decision until Nov. 9 on a number of smuggling-for-cash charges, including theft, laundering the proceeds of crime, possession of stolen property and breach of trust.

The Uck! factor aside, the case was also an illuminating look at security measures inside the Mint, the building on Sussex Drive that produces hundreds of millions of gold coins annually for the federal Crown corporation.

"Appalling," was the conclusion of defence lawyer Gary Barnes, who described the Crown's case as an underwhelming collection of circumstantial evidence.

"This is the Royal Canadian Mint, your Honour, and one would think they should have the highest security measures imaginable," Barnes said in his closing submission.

"And here the gold is left sitting around in open buckets."

Indeed, it was not even the Mint that discovered the alleged theft but an alert bank teller.

Court was told that, on multiple occasions, Lawrence took small circular chunks of gold — a cookie-sized nugget called a "puck" — to Ottawa Gold Buyers in the Westgate Shopping Centre on Carling Avenue.

Typically, the pucks weighed about 210 grams, or 7.4 ounces, for which he was given cheques in the \$6,800 range, depending on fluctuating gold prices, court heard. He then deposited the cheques at the Royal Bank in the same mall.

One day a teller became suspicious at the size and number of Ottawa Gold Buyers cheques being deposited and Lawrence's request to wire money out of the country. She then noticed on his account profile that he worked at the Mint. The first red flag was up.

Bank security was alerted, then the RCMP, which began to investigate. Eventually, a search warrant was obtained and four Mint-style pucks were found in Lawrence's safety deposit box, court heard.

Records revealed 18 pucks had been sold between Nov. 27, 2014 and March 12, 2015. Together with dozens of gold coins that were redeemed, the total value of the suspected theft was conservatively estimated at \$179,015.

But the defence countered with a couple of important points. The Crown was not able to prove conclusively that the gold in Lawrence's possession actually came from inside the Mint. It had no markings nor, apparently, had any gold been reported missing internally.

The Crown was able to show the pucks precisely fit the Mint's custom "dipping spoon" made in-house — not available commercially — that is used to scoop molten gold during the production process.

Lawrence, who has since been terminated, was an operator in the refinery section. Among his duties was to scoop gold from buckets so it could be tested for purity, as the Mint prides itself on gold coins above the 99 per cent level.

The great mystery that went unanswered at trial, however, was this: how did the gold get out of the Mint?

Court was told Lawrence set off the metal detector at an exit from the "secure area" with more frequency than any other employee — save those with metal medical implants. When that happened, the procedure was to do a manual search with a hand-held wand, a search that he always passed.

(It was not uncommon for employees to set off the detector, court heard.)

Investigators also found a container of vaseline in his locker and the trial was presented with the prospect that a puck could be concealed in an anal cavity and not be detected by the wand. In preparation for these proceedings, in fact, a security employee actually tested the idea, Barnes said.

Lawrence did not take the stand — as is his legal right — and the Crown was not able to definitively establish how the gold pucks made their way out of the facility.

"We do have compelling evidence," countered Crown attorney David Friesen, of someone "secreting (gold) on his person and taking it out of the Mint."



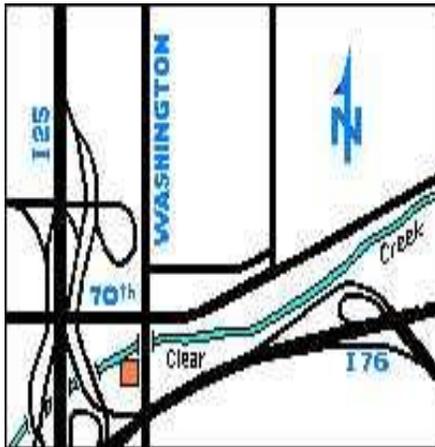
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Barnes implied there were many ways Lawrence could have legitimately obtained the gold — he could have bought the coins, for instance — and said he made no efforts to be devious with the gold buyers or the bank. Further, Barnes said, the Mint isn't even sure a theft took place.

“In fact, I would submit the Mint doesn't even know if anything is missing.”

In an emailed statement Tuesday evening, a Mint spokeswoman said several security measures had been upgraded, including high definition security cameras in all areas, improved ability to track, balance and reconcile precious metal, and the use of “trend analysis technology.”

TYMKOVICH MEATS



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9:30 to 5:30
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GOLD - N - DETECTORS

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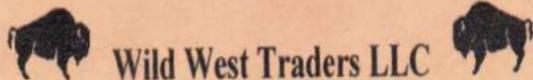


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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Nov 2016

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	GPR Metal Decting Outing
6	7	8	9	WMMI Mining in Morenci, Arizona	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16 GPR Club Meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	WMMI Gold Assay Seminar
27	28	29	30			