

THE GOLD NUGGET

February 2018

Obituary Richard Wayne 'Rick' LaCombe

It is with profound sadness and regret that we announce the death of Rick who passed away suddenly on January 25, 2018. Rick was a Life Member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies and an avid prospector who loved digging and detecting for gold. Though his failing health prevented his attending meetings in recent years, he was a strong supporter of the Club and never missed the Christmas Dinner if at all possible. He was a proud retired US Air Force Msgr. and Vietnam veteran and the recipient of several Bronze Stars for Valor for his service to our country. He was also a member of Elks Lodge #2363. Rick really loved to fish and



prospect for gold, both habits he picked up while stationed in Alaska. He later prospected all over Colorado and several other states and was one of the original members of the GPR. His favorite thing to do was to metal detect for gold and his stories of some of his trips were enjoyable to hear. In recent years, a group of us would meet for lunch regularly and "Ranger Rick" would often regale us all with some of his stories from 'back in the day'. It was always an enjoyable time spent in camaraderie. He was a prospecting partner and a good friend. Rick is survived by his wife Patti and daughter Jennifer. RIP my friend, you will be missed.



2018 DUES ARE DUE NOW

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



It is that time of year when we need to renew our Dues for the coming year. By doing so, you maintain your membership in the largest active Club in the Denver area. Your Board works hard at being able to provide an adequate number of Outings each year to try to keep the interest up and meet the demands of the many and varied interests within the Club.

From attendance in the past events, we understand that many members are not able to get out and into the creeks/rivers anymore to actively dig for gold. But we do have enough that can make such ventures available at a frequency that support those numbers and that would be about one trip a month.

We try to find areas that are accessible to a group of under 40 or so, whether they be a private claim or public access. So far, we have been fortunate to have such places that produce enough gold to keep everybody happy to some degree. No one is getting rich, but then again, that isn't the real goal anyway. It is more about getting out and having a little fun with people of like interests and finding a little gold as well.

Having done most of the available museum tours and mine tours reasonable close to the metro area where the majority of our members live, we try to get one in every now and then without repeating the same old places every year. Most of these mines don't change from year to year and once you have been inside, you are not apt to see any difference from year to year unless it is in personnel. But as the membership changes every few years with new folks, we try to throw one in now and again for their benefit. I usually know when a certain location has been frequented too often by the number of folks who turn up for the event. Low numbers mean it is time to find a different venue. Prospecting locations are few and far in between. There are lots of considerations that have to be taken before I can approve one for an Outing. Things like distance from the metro area, accessibility and type and steepness of terrain, availability of sufficient parking for at least 20 vehicles, proximity of restroom facilities, water flow and depth, and the availability of gold being present are all things that I have to consider before I approve a location. If it were just me and 2 or 3 others, there would be a lot less to consider. But when you are trying to organize events for at least 20 to 40 people, you have a lot of other factors to consider. Failure to provide a reasonable event is a prescription for unhappy members and that is certainly what we try to avoid. We understand that you can't please everyone and we know that we can't do that. So we try to please enough to keep folks involved.



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The panning demos that we do, we do for money. We charge quite a bit to do them and that money is used primarily to pay for the monthly meeting room and basic operating costs of the Club for the year. I purposely turn down a number of these events each year because it is not easy to find sufficient numbers of folks willing to donate their time to operate each event. Volunteering for one of these events is a tremendous opportunity for members who aren't very skilled at panning to get in a ton of panning to help hone their skills. The 99% of people who come to these events just like to try their hand at it and to see some real gold and they are in no position to comment on your skill level. Since I attend all of these panning demos, I am on hand to help you with a quick technique that will work well enough that most of those people will never realize that you aren't necessarily last years speed panning champion.

Don Bray and I are going to work real hard at getting a 'rock hounding' trip in this summer as well. Not all that glitters out there is gold. Colorado is home to a tremendous number of really neat mineral specimens that are available if you know where to look. Some are on public ground but many are on private ground and those are the harder ones to access. They are relatively easy to find, but hard to get access. This one should be fun and it is only about 2 hours of so from here.

And lastly, as you all are keenly aware, we give away at least 10 gold nuggets by drawing at every meeting along with a number of other door prizes to include some really cool mineral specimens from Colorado as well as from all over the world. And we sell bags of sand that contain some pretty good gold as well, so there are plenty of opportunities for you to get some gold even if you can't get out to the creeks and rivers. And that is all we can do is try to make as many opportunities for each of you available as we possibly can. We hope that you agree and find something that fits you. We value and cherish your membership and will continue to work hard to provide these opportunities to and for you.

Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be! 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!!!

The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



It is the 28th of January, and I am running out of time to submit my V.P. Corner article to Pres. Long for the February newsletter. I have been struggling to get started with this latest article. I am sure that by now a large number of our members know that we have lost another of our fellow club members. It is always difficult when these things occur, but it is even more difficult when you lose a friend. Rick LaCombe was one of the original members of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies. I met Rick after joining the club in 2003. We shared some great times together prospecting for gold in various places for a number of years. We did the meat market thing on Clear Creek numerous times, and always had a good time finding gold there. We had a spot near Breckenridge that was looking like it could turn into something special. Sad to say, the city of Breckenridge ruined that by making the area off limits to gold prospecting. Isn't it amazing how concerned people like that can be, when they fret over the possibility that some ignorant prospector might under cut a tree looking for gold. Yet they have no problem destroying thousands of trees to build ski areas, in order to line their pockets with the money it will bring them!!! Sorry for that, but the hypocrisy on display there just infuriates me!!! So, back to the adventures of Rick and Joe . I had a claim here in Colorado some years back with better gold (larger and more of it) than any place that I had previously worked. Rick was one of only two people that I ever took there at the time, and we had a great adventure sluicing for gold. We took two trips to Arizona chasing gold, and visited a number of locations while doing so. We spent time near Tucson, Stanton, and Quartzite. We dry washed, panned, and metal detected during our time in Arizona. Rick was a good friend, I will miss him and the enthusiasm he had for gold prospecting. MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN !!!! Comments or Questions call or text 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Roger Schlenger

The **February Meeting** will feature a drawing for nine (9) gold nuggets of which the largest will be a 2.6 gram nugget. We will be giving away the 'Special Nugget' at this meeting, so be sure to support your Club by buying as many nugget drawing and raffle tickets as you can afford. Remember, your odds of winning a nugget here are far better than your chances of winning the lottery.



Planned 2018 GPR Meeting Programs:

- February 21** Kevin Singel, Prospecting Southwest Colorado
- March 21** Gold Trails video, episodes 9 and 10
- April 18** Gold Trails video, episodes 11 and 12

Board Meeting Minutes From Jan 2018

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

Quorum Present: Yes.

Call to Order by: Pres. Long at 6:05 pm.

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

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

Correspondence: 3 phone calls, 12 e-mails, 14 mailings.

Webmaster: Total Hits 150313 Hits for last 2 month 282.

Committee Reports: All standing committees from 2017 to remain the same for 2018.

- 2018 memberships to WMMI (250.00), CSMGM (100.00) were approved unanimously. Discussed PLP's situation and 2018 PLP membership (100.00) was approved unanimously.
- Huge thanks to Joe and Chris Kafka for their work on Christmas Dinner decorations.

Unfinished Business: Discussed moving Club CD's to Coors Credit Union, approved by unanimous vote, BM J. Johnson assigned to follow up on arrangements.

New Business: None at this time.

Planned Outings for 2018: Schedule has not been determined yet.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed Christmas Program which was attended by 92 attendees.
- BM J. Shubert provided the 2018 election results packet for the official records. There was nothing further from the Board.

Additional Announcements: Next Board Meeting: Feb 21 2018 at 6:00 pm. Next General Meeting: Feb 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Tonight's general meeting program: We will hear a presentation from Gib Cannon of Gold King Creek Alaskan Adventures who will talk about his new 'Pay for Gold Mining' venture with slide show.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:47 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Gold melts at 1064.43° Centigrade.
It can conduct both heat and electricity.
It never rusts.
Are any of these characteristics FALSE??

2018 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Roger Schlenger

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2016)

Joe Shubert (2015)

1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

Past President

Garv Hawlev

General Meeting Minutes From Jan 2018

1. Meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would feature a slide show and presentation by Gib Cannon of Gold King Creek Alaskan Adventures who will discuss his new 'Pay for Gold Mining' venture on a 4000 claim near Fairbanks, Alaska. Mr. Cannon is starting his first year with this venture so it should be pretty good up there. The Program was well received.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report: Gold 1326.60, Silver 16.98, Platinum 998.00, Palladium 1107.00. Rhodium 1320.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month were approx. 262.
5. **Treasurer Roger Schlenger** 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 an Alaskan chunk of



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raw gold weighing in at 13.9 grams and we will be giving it away in February. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.8 grams.

6. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 57 members in attendance. There were 4 guests present. The total meeting attendance was 61.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "**According to the Park County Historical Society – Resources, list of "COLORADO MINING FAALITIES 1884-1981." On the fatality list, what is the first miners name and how did he die? HINT: He died on Mar. 19, 1928??**"
8. **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, 2018. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely.
9. **Sara Saraceno** announced the new 'Cache' Hunt and presented **Clue # 5**.
10. **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, and we have discounted several items. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank **Mike Hurtado** for over- seeing this important aspect of the Club.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that:
 - The Outings Schedule for 2018 is being prepared.
 - The December Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Recognition Program went very well with 92 attendees.
 - Pres. Long advised the members that the 2018 memberships to the WMMI and CSMGM had been renewed. After discussion, it was determined that we will now resume our PLP Club membership as well as PLP seems to have resolved all of their issues at this time.
 - Members were encouraged to support the Store during the Break and to return any materials checked out from the Library as soon as possible, to vote on the Finds of the Month, purchase their gold drawing tickets and submit their answers to the Question of the Month.
 - There was nothing of note added from the Floor.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:00 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:32 pm.
13. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer was, "**Esiquo Abalos, by fall of rock**"!! There were 28 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:
 - **Best Coin** – **Roger Schlenger** with a '1901 Indian Head Penny he found in an old house he was working in in Denver, Colo.
 - **Best Jewelry** – **Angie Yen** with a full finger Armor Ring she found while metal detecting in Arvada, Colo.
 - **Best Mineral** – **Don Bray** with a sample of cinnabar sulfide he found in Gilpin County, Colo.
 - **Best Artifact** – There was no entry for this category this month.
 - **Best Bottle** – There was no entry for this category this month.
 - **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with .29 grams of gold he found in Clear Creek while prospecting.
 - **Largest Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with a "mini-picker" he found while prospecting in Clear Creek.
15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Dick Oakes, GPAA, Kevin Singel 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 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 Roger Schlenger** and **Wayne Schomaker**.
16. **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.
17. **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.



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18. The **February Meeting Program** will be a Power Point Presentation on “Prospecting Southwest Colorado” by Kevin Singel and will feature locations discussed in his soon to be printed book titled “Finding Gold in Colorado”. This should be a great program and I encourage all to attend as it will be a ‘you really don’t wanna miss out’ kind of thing. 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’!
19. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Finds of the Month 2018

The finds of the Month for Jan are as follows:

Best Coin – **Roger Schlenger** with a ‘1901 Indian Head Penny he found in an old house he was working in in Denver, Colo.

Best Jewelry – **Angie Yen** with a full finger Armor Ring she found while metal detecting in Arvada, Colo.

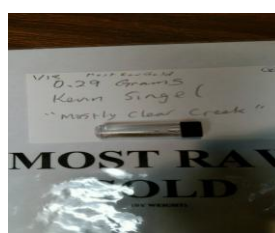
Best Mineral – **Don Bray** with a sample of cinnabar sulfide he found in Gilpin County, Colo.

Best Artifact – There was no entry for this category this month.

Best Bottle – There was no entry for this category this month.

Most Raw Gold – **Kevin Singel** with .29 grams of gold he found in Clear Creek while prospecting.

Largest Raw Gold – **Kevin Singel** with a “mini-pick” he found while prospecting in Clear Creek.



(oops.....We missed the photo of Don’s Cinnebar sample)

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 2017 meeting to compete for the Find of the Year 2017. Thanks to all those who also submitted, additional finds that were not judged winners.

A Miner’s Laugh

There was a nice little old lady, a minister’s widow, who was a little old fashioned. She was planning a week’s vacation in California at a large popular campground, but she wanted to make sure of the accommodations first. Uppermost in her mind were bathroom facilities, but she couldn’t bring herself to write “toilet” in a letter. After considerable deliberation, she settled on “bathroom commode,” but when she wrote that down, it still sounded too forward, so, after the first page of her letter, she referred to the bathroom commode as “BC.” “Does the cabin where I will be staying have its own ‘BC’? If not, where is the ‘BC’ located?” is what she actually wrote. The campground owner took the first page of the letter and the lady’s check and gave it to his secretary. He put the remainder of the letter on the desk of the senior member of his staff without noticing that the staffer would have no way of knowing what “BC” meant. Then the owner went off to town to run some errands. The staff member, an old retired miner, came in after lunch, found the letter, and was baffled by the euphemism, so he showed the letter around to several counselors, but they couldn’t decipher it either. The campground owner’s wife, who knew that the lady was the widow of a famous Baptist preacher, was sure that it must be a question about the local Baptist Church. “Of course,” the old miner exclaimed, “‘BC’ stands for ‘Baptist Church.’”, and so he sat down and wrote:

Dear Madam,





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I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take the pleasure in informing you that the BC is located nine miles north of the campground and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late. The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. They are going to hold it in the basement of the 'BC.' I would like to say that it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it is surely no lack of desire on my part. As we grow older, it seems to be more of an effort, particularly in cold weather. If you decide to come down to our campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time, sit with you, and introduce you to all the folks. Remember, this is a friendly community."

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

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 strictly my opinion, and that is that, like it or not.....jj)

Coal Mining Deaths in US Surge in 2017: Coal mining deaths surged in the US in 2017, just one year after hitting a record low. The nation's coal mines recorded 15 deaths last year including 8 in West Virginia. Kentucky had two deaths and there were one each in Alabama, Colorado, Montana, Pennsylvania and Wyoming. In 2016, there were eight US coal mine deaths. In September, President Trump appointed retired coal company executive David Zatezalo as the new chief of the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Most of the deaths in 2017 were prior to the appointment of Zatezalo.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE:

ICMJ applauds BLM whistle blower and US District Court Judge for their integrity:

Chief US District Court Judge Gloria Navarro declared a mistrial in the Cliven Bundy/Gold Butte ranch trial. Whether or not you agree with the Bundy's actions or the resistance groups that came to their aid when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) attempted to confiscate his cattle in Gold Butte, Nevada back in 2014, you have to applaud Judge Navarro for her decision to declare a mistrial in the case against Cliven Bundy, his sons Ammon and Ryan, and co-defendant Ryan Payne after a BLM agent disclosed major misconduct on the part of the federal government and that exculpatory evidence was being withheld. It took Larry Wooten, a BLM Special Agent and Case Agent/Lead Investigator who became a whistle blower in the case, seventeen pages to document all the incidents of misconduct, cover-ups, use of force violations, civil rights violations, policy violations, illegally recorded conversations, shredded documents, false statements and reports, exculpatory evidence being withheld, and how his complaints to his superiors were ignored. Wooten wrote, "...on multiple occasions, former BLM Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) (Dan) Love specifically and purposely ignored US Attorney's Office and civilian management direction and intent as well as Nevada State official recommendations in order to command the most intrusive, oppressive, large scale, and militaristic trespass cattle impound possible." Wooten stated he was removed as the lead agent in February 2017 despite receiving several awards for his work on the case, and his BLM supervisor illegally accessed his locked safe, removing notes, case files, computer hard drives, collected emails, text messages, instant messages and more. "These items were taken because they contained significant evidence of misconduct and items that would potentially embarrass BLM Law Enforcement Supervision," Wooten wrote. Wooten also documented violations made by prosecutors. When we became aware that David Bundy's seized iPad likely contained remarks from BLM Law Enforcement Officers that is potentially evidence of civil rights violations and excessive use of force, (Assistant U Attorney) Mr. Myhre and my supervisor not only apparently failed (to) initiate the appropriate follow-on-actions, Mr Myhre apparently failed to notify the Defense Counsel and also decided not to return the iPad..." wrote Wooten. "Simply put, as a law enforcement officer, I can't allow injustices and cover-ups to go unreported of half-truths and skewed narratives to go unopposed." In declaring the mistrial, Judge Navarro cited only a few items of evidence that were withheld from the defense, including maps, video surveillance reports regarding the Bundy property, and an FBI assessment from 2012 that discussed the non-violent nature of Cliven Bundy. Several lawmakers are now calling for Congress and the Trump Administration to open an investigation into wrongdoing by BLM officers and supervisors and US Attorney Steven Myhre. The ICMJ has obtained a full copy of Wooten's memo to the



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Department of Justice. There is a link to this document in the online version for this article on the ICMJ website at www.icmj.com and you can also find it by searching on the internet for “ICMJwootenCommunication.pdf”.

(You will all recall that when I originally reported this incident, I was concerned then that the BLM had overstepped their authority and that none of this should ever have happened. This goes directly to the BLM far exceeding their authority and using force to back up their policies which was not and is not constitutionally permitted...I certainly hope that all that criminal conduct is exposed and let the guilty pay.....JJ)

EPA declines to impose additional regulations and financial requirements on hardrock miners: On December 1, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced they are declining to create duplicative regulations and additional financial responsibility requirements for hardrock miners. This entire fiasco began when environmental groups sued the EPA in 2009, claiming the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also referred to as the Superfund Law, was insufficient and sought to substantially increase financial and regulatory burdens on hardrock mining operations. CERCLA was passed by Congress in 1980 to govern past and future waste disposal practices, and it achieved the intended goal of changing current mining practices for the better while increasing financial assurance requirements. As a result, federal and state regulations were created to adequately address future environmental impacts. Under the previous administration, the EPA appeared ready to impose an additional layer of regulations and financial burdens on hardrock miners. But a ruling by the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in early 2016 only required the EPA to decide whether or not a new rule was necessary by December 1, 2017, and the current administration has determined no new rule is needed.

“Baffling” ruling in suction gold dredging court case: Judge Gilbert Ochoa issued another ruling in the consolidated California suction gold dredging case, a ruling that attorney James Buchal calls “baffling”. Judge Ochoa dismissed claims that California violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), declaring these violations are “moot” because California passed Senate Bill 637. “Perhaps the judge imagines that when and if the Water Board gets around to issuing regulations that might allow mining, and the Department gets around to finishing considerations with the tribes and other issues raised by SB637, more environmental analysis will be needed,” said Buchal. “However, many of the very same issues the mining community spent large sums to brief would then be presented all over again, the classic reason not to declare a case moot.” Judge Ochoa also dismissed the ‘one subject’ complaint regarding Senate Bill 1018 and Assembly Bill 120, declaring that no one had standing to address this question. Attorney Buchal said he does believe the judge’s rulings merit an appeal. Judge Ochoa did deny the State’s request to dismiss the takings case, and the miners can proceed with their claim that the State of California violated the miners’ rights under the Fifth Amendment by taking their property without compensating them. “The takings ruling clearly rejects the State’s attempt to reframe unpatented mining claims as the only species of property than vanishes, for taking purposes, whenever regulation destroys the value of the property,” Buchal said. The next step is for the court to set a date for briefs to be filed regarding the takings issue, and for the plaintiffs to decide whether to move forward with an appeal on the rulings related to CEQA, APA and the ‘one subject’ rule.

Mountain City Came First by Linda Jones

On May 5, 1859, there was no one in the wilderness 20 miles west of Golden, Colorado. A few residents of Montana City and Arapahoe City had wintered over in those towns but most prospectors were waiting for summer to trek to the mountains to the west in search for the gold that they were sure was there. The next day, the future and fortunes of America changed dramatically. John Gregory would discover lode gold, gold veins in the ground, near North Clear Creek and the world would begin to beat a path to this area. Yes, gold had been discovered in the creeks in the Denver area and in Chicago creek near present day Idaho Springs, but experienced prospectors knew these flakes were limited in number and that the real richness lay in veins in the granite clad hills. The first town to spring up was appropriately named Mountain City. Within just a few days, other towns sprang into existence up and down the gulch, now named Gregory Gulch and close to it were Black Hawk, Central City, Missouri City and Nevada City. By January 1860, a mere seven months later, the population of Mountain City was estimated to be 800 and on January 17, 1860, a post office





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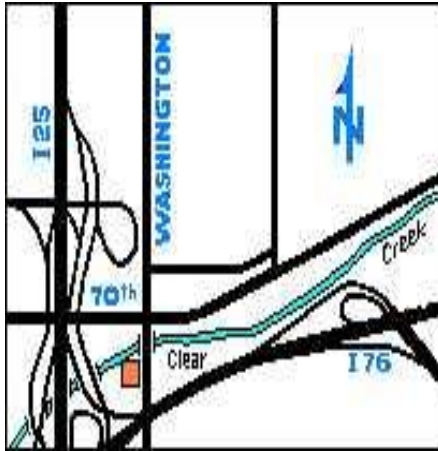
was officially established at Mountain City, Kansas Territory. The Post Office was discontinued on October 8, 1869, and moved to Central City. Historian Frank Hall asserts, "Mountain City began the permanent history of Colorado. It is here where is not to be found a space sufficiently level to serve as a site for even a small circus tent, that we find the birthplace and cradle of American civilization in the great central region between the border states at the Missouri River and the Pacific Sea." Mountain City's business district extended up Gregory Street to nearly the Kip & Buell Mill, now a picturesque stone ruin, and up Packard Gulch on a steep road called Bent Street. Today's Red Dolly casino sits squarely in Mountain City and Black Hawk's nearby Mountain City Historic Park contains several 19th Century structures, all beautifully restored. Three of the buildings occupy their original sites and the remaining seven were moved from nearby locations. The businesses in Mountain City in the earliest frontier period, 160 – 1865, served all the needs of its citizens. The first theatrical works ever presented in the Colorado Rockies were given here in Hadley's Hall, in the large upper room with its rude stage, by Madame Wakely and the Haidee Sisters. Also in Hadley's Hall, Father Machebeuf said the first Mass in the Colorado mountains. Here in Mountain City was the first Masonic Temple in what would be Colorado and the memorial that still stands along Gregory Street. It reads: "On this site there was erected in the month of June AD 1859 the first Masonic building in the State of Colorado. The building committee preempted this block in an act of preemption as shown by the Gregory Mining District records – June 12, 1859. William Slaughter, John Hughes, Joseph Casto. Monument erected by the Grand Lodge in 1932" As the town matured and families came, a school was opened in the winter of 1862-1863. Commercial enterprises included the first saloon in a Colorado mining town, two newspapers – the Rocky Mountain Gold Reporter and the Mountain City Herald – both gone by the end of October 1859, the Mountain City Brewery up Packard Gulch, a jewelry store, two butcher shops, a restaurant, a general store, L.W. Borton, Attorney at Law, a claims recorder's office, sawmill, boarding house carpenter shop and a blacksmith shop. The largest employer in the town was the Gregory Lode and the Gregory-Buell Consolidated Gold Mining & Milling Company and its power plant. The Gregory Mining District laws adopted on May 8, 1859, were the law of this area until the passage of the Federal Mining Act of 1872, which is still the law of the hard rock mining industry in America to this very day. Eager pioneers created Jefferson Territory, an illegal entity in the eyes of the federal government, on October 10, 1859, so Washington then officially created Colorado Territory on February 2, 1861, thus ending the so called illegal territory. The Legislature of the new Colorado Territory officially created Gilpin County on November 1, 1861. Finally, the Colorado Territorial Legislature, on March 4, 1864, officially allowed the creation of the two cities currently in the County; House Bill 22 incorporated the City of Black Hawk, and House Bill 27 incorporated the City of Central. The original boundaries between the two towns in these House Bills located the people in Mountain City and Gregory Point in the City of Central, but the citizens in those two areas sent a strongly worded letter to the House of Representatives in which they let the legislature know in no uncertain terms that they did not want to be a part of the City of Central. The Legislature listened and the final incorporation boundaries of the two cities included both Mountain City and Gregory Point in the City of Black Hawk, with a population of about 3000 residents at the time.

(reprinted from the April 15-28, 2014 edition of the Colorado Gambler)

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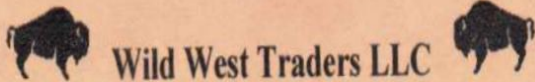


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Contact the GPR President

(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



Coming Announcements and Special Events for Mar 2018

(**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	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Saving Time	12	13 WMMI Cripple Creek High Grading Lecture	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21 GPR Club Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31