

# THE GOLD NUGGET

May 2019

## 2019 Membership Dues are now Past Due!!!

You may pay by cash, check, or credit card this year at the Registration Table.

You may also mail your payment (\$30/year):

Payable to GPR

Send to: PO Box 150096, Lakewood, Colo, 80215.

We appreciate your continued membership!!

## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



We are having our usual crazy Colorado weather. Sun shining one day, rain the next, and snow on another day. That is what makes everything entertaining and interesting in this glorious state of ours. Now the real trick, if you are the Club President, is to ensure that when you plan Club outings, you do it on one of the sunny days and not on a bad weather day. So far, knock on wood, I have been fortunate during the last number of years with the planning. Again, knock on wood.

The GPAA Gold and Treasure Show was pretty cool in as much as I got to meet **Shannon Poe** of the AMRA. I discovered that he and I had very similar backgrounds in our previous careers and after talking to him for a while, I realized that the mining community has picked the right guy to head up the American Mining Right Association. He was a trip and we shared a few good laughs. I also had

a chance to catch up to **Kevin Hoagland** of the GPAA whom I hadn't seen for a few years. We were glad to see each other and managed to do some catching up on lots of things of mutual interest to us both. Kevin is quite the busy man and we discussed a mutual problem we have here in Colorado. As a result of that conversation, a seed has been planted and we will have to see if that seed comes to fruition in the coming months. I sincerely hope that it does. If it does, I will have additional comments to make at a date down the road. I met up with several other folks whom I haven't seen in several years and met a lot of folk that I have communicated with on social media platforms but have never met until the Show, so that was indeed very cool. It is always good to put a face to a name. As I get older, I find that the faces get foggy if you don't see the face regularly, and it is the same with names as well. It was so nice to meet up with my good friend **Calvin Nobles** from the Western Slope Chapter of the GPAA out of Olathe. He came over with his wife Judy and brought a half dozen or so of his members with him to help out at the Show. I also saw my good friend **Dalton Oakes** from the Colorado Springs Chapter of the GPAA who also came up to help out. Dalton was in the Chapter down there when I was looking for a Club to join and I joined up back in 2005 when they started up. It was the only Chapter on the Front Range at the time. I joined the GPR in 2007 and later switched my GPAA membership to the Foothills Chapter here in Golden when they first formed up back around 2014 or so. When I looked back at some of my photos, I realized that I had been helping out and running a booth at the GPAA Gold Shows for the last 10 or 12 years. That surprised me as I hadn't realized that time had flown by so quickly. I remember my grandson competing in the panning competition ran by Tom Massie against 19 adult panners. He was only 12 years old after panning, Tom Massie was handing out the winners Awards and called Brandon up to him and told the participants that this 12 year old kid had out panned 12 of them as he came in at 7<sup>th</sup> out of them all. For the next 7 or 8 years, Brandon Luchtenburg had his picture in the GPAA event flyer that advertised the GPAA Gold Shows across the country from city to city. That was pretty cool as well. I remember in 2007, while up at the GPAA Cripple River Camp up in Nome, Alaska, competing in the golf completion put on by Perry Massie in which there were 42 participants and I used a 7 wood to knock the ball within 3 feet of the cup. Perry was the last to tee it up as he was considered the reigning champion. Everybody figured I had it won, but Perry struck the ball with the same 7 wood I had used, and knocked the ball a mere 3 inches closer than mine. I guess if you were going to lose to someone, losing to Perry was okay. I saw him again in 2013 and he remembered me from that day and we shared some good laughs over that moment we had shared in Alaska together. So for me, the GPAA Gold Show always brings the opportunity to not only see all the vendors and look at the new lines of products that are constantly coming out, along with the old tried true equipment, but to also meet up with old friends you have met and made over the years. It is a chance to often catch up on news as well and not all of it good. I learned that an old friend from the Pony Express GPAA Chapter in St. Joseph, Missouri, Bernie Shafer, had died last fall. I hadn't heard from him in a while as we had prospected together in Colorado a couple of times and he was planning on coming out again this year. So it was a little sad when I realized that we would never share the thrill of finding the 'golden shiny' together again. So, RIP old friend, until we meet again!



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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](mailto:jnslong945@msn.com) . Happy and safe prospecting to all!!!

## The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



Well it's time for another installment of the V.P. Corner Article. I managed to get out a few times in early April, but the last half of the month was a no go for me. I got out to the creek for the Panning Class early in the month, then I made to the Gold Show around the middle of the month, then I did a bit of metal detecting the day after I was at the show. Don't know what's up with me lately, seems as though I have lost some my enthusiasm for getting out to prospect and detect. I am working at downsizing my shop and being semi retired. I guess that I am just distracted by the whole process and the changes that come with it. I will be glad when all of the changes and rearranging are complete, but that is probably going to take some time. So I will just have to deal with this awkward unsettled feeling for a while. One of the things that is painfully clear to me, is, I won't have the space needed for some of my prospecting equipment. So I may be getting rid of some items in the next month or two. I will get the word out to the members of the club when I know what will be available to anyone who is interested. If I can come up with a solution for storing everything in half the space then I take back what I said earlier ..... just kidding !!! With everything that has been going on lately, I had pretty much talked myself out of going to Nevada this spring. Then I heard from two of my nugget hunting friends in the last week or so. One of them has been to Nevada twice in the last half of April. He got gold on both trips, but said the ground is damp and noisy. So, I have decided to take a trip to Nevada a couple of days after our club meeting in May, if the weather is good and ground conditions improve. I will wait to see what the guys recommend in a week or so. I guess that this is about all that I have for this month. Until next time, MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN !!!!!!! Questions or comments?..... Call or Text me... 303-263-7204 .... Joe Fortunato

## From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



The May Meeting will feature a nine (9) nugget giveaway of which the largest nugget will be 2.4 grams. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time, which I have at my desk in the back. Hope to see you all there at the meeting!!

## Board Meeting Minutes From Apr 2019

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

**Quorum Present:** Yes.

**Call to Order by:** Pres Long at 5:57 pm.

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

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

**Correspondence:** 7 phone calls, 7 e-mails, 8 mailings.

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 154014 Hits for last 2 month 193.

**Committee Reports:** Pres. Long still working on 2019 Director's Books updates.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

(TWO PART ANSWER)

What is the name of the biggest single gold specimen discovered on the planet, unearthed in Oct 1872 in New South Wales,

Australia and how much did the gold in the specimen weigh when the quartz specimen was crushed.





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**Unfinished Business:** Gold Show was a success for us. Made 700.00 in sales and signed up 5 new members with others interested.

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

Planned Outings for 2019: Outing Schedule completed and issued in Feb. Newsletter.

- Apr. 27 Sat. Prospecting Outing, Blackhawk, 9am.
- May 16 Thur Panning Demo, Aurora Water Festival, 9a to 2p, see signup sheet.
- May 25 Sat Prospecting Outing, Blackhawk, 9am.

### From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed the Chafee Mine Tour on Mar. 23 at Jesse Peterson's, which had a great turnout of almost 30 members.
- The Beginners Panning Class on Apr. 6, which had a record 31 participants.
- The GPAA Gold Show on Apr. 13, 14 where we held a booth.
- Our event schedule had been moving right along with lots of interesting happenings.
- BM B. Manning advised that he had completed the business card order and distributed the cards.
- BM J. Schubert absent due to health.
- BM J. Kafka will be going in for surgery and Roger Schlenger will fill in for him at the May meeting.
- Pres. Long advised that he had renewed the Club Certification as a non-profit with the Secretary of State and the paperwork was completed and filed.

**Additional Announcements:** Next Board Meeting: May 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Next General Meeting: May 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

**Tonight's general meeting program:** We will be having a video presentation by Goldbuy.com and the AMRA on Metal Detecting Mine Walls in the Colorado Mine of California.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:47 pm.

### 2019 GPR Board of Directors Members

#### President

James 'JJ' Long

#### Vice President

Joe Fortunato

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

#### 2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2017)

Joe Shubert (2018)

#### 1 Year Board Members

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson II

Bobby Manning

Chris Kafka

Mike Stevens

#### Past President

Gary Hawley

## General Meeting Minutes From Apr 2019

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 video presentation by Shannon Poe of AMRA on Metal Detecting Mine Walls in the Colorado Mine in California.
3. **Pres. Long** then gave the Metals Report: Gold 1273.60, Silver 14.96, Platinum 887.00, Palladium 1379.00, Rhodium 2675.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month was 193.
5. **Treasurer Joe Kafka** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We have a new 'Special Nugget' tonight so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a beautiful specimen from Australia. Also, don't forget to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.7 grams.
6. **Dan McConnell** reported from the Membership Table that we had 74 members in attendance. There were 6 guests present. The total meeting attendance was 80.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "Elvis Presley owned three cars manufactured by Stutz Motor Comp. in which every part that is normally "???" was converted to "???" We need two answers!! The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later.
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, 2019. 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. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. **Gordon Smith** announced the 'Cache Clue' # 4.
10. **Pres. Long** advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We always have a supply of gold bags for sale as well.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that the next Outings are as follow:



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- Apr. 27, Sat., **Prospecting Outing**, Blackhawk, 9am.
  - May 16 thur., **Panning Demo**, Aurora Water Festival, see signup sheet.
  - May 25, Sat., **Prospecting Outing**, Blackhawk, 9am.
12. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break. Members who check things out of the Club Library are reminded to return them promptly. Many thanks to all those who helped out at the Beginners Panning Class, which had a record 31 attendees, and to all those who pitched in to help at the GPAA Gold Show which would not have been a success without your volunteering. THANK YOU TO ALL. Also discussed, was the Clear Creek Canyon Project, which will be held on Sept. 26, and will be a joint venture of trash cleanup conducted by Jeff. Co. Open Spaces. There will be additional details as Sept. draws nearer. There was nothing additional of note added from the Floor.
13. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:20 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:42 pm.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners of the '**Question of the Month**'. The answer was, "**Chrome**' and '**Gold**' !! There were only 27 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
15. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:

**Best Coin** – **John Olson** with an old 1857 'O' half dime he found metal detecting in Eastern Colorado.

**Best Jewelry** – **Denis Perederin** with several pendants he found in Peter Pan Park while metal detecting.

- **Best Mineral** – **Kevin Singel** with sample of Petrified Wood he found near Parker, Colorado.
  - **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with a dropped .50 cal. Henry bullet he found while metal detecting in Colorado.
  - **Best Bottle** – There was no entry in this category this month.
  - **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with 2.06 grams of gold he found in various Colorado locations.
  - **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry in this category this month
16. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Gordon Smith and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 15 door prizes and 9 gold nuggets. **Pres. Long** also wants to remind 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 **Joe Kafka and Chuck Cown**.
17. **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.
18. **Pres. Long** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** 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.
19. **The May Meeting Program** will be a video presentation of the Cargill Family Mining on Mt. Antero in Colorado. 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'!

## A Miner's Laugh

An old miner was strolling in the park when he noticed an older lady sitting on a park bench sobbing her eyes out. He became concerned and approached her asking if anything was wrong. Sobbing loudly, she said, "I have a 22 year old husband at home. He makes love to me every morning and then gets up and makes me pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and freshly ground coffee." The old miner was somewhat astounded at this revelation and then asked her why that would make her cry so hard. Beginning to sob even louder, she replied, "He also makes me homemade soup for lunch and my favorite brownies and then makes love to me for half the afternoon." The old miner stares at the old woman for a minute and slowly shakes his head. "Well, I simply don't understand why you are crying about all that." Now sobbing really hard, the old lady says, "For dinner, he makes me a gourmet meal with wine and my favorite desert and then makes love to me until 2am each night."





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Totally exasperated at this point, the old miner tells her that he plainly doesn't understand why she is crying about all that. Then the old woman cries out loudly, "Because I can't remember where I live!!!"

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

### The finds of the Month Apr 2019:

**Best Coin** – John Olson with an 1857 half dime he found while metal detecting.

**Best Jewelry** – Dennis Perederin with an ear ring and pendants he found while metal detecting in Denver.

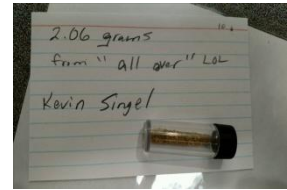
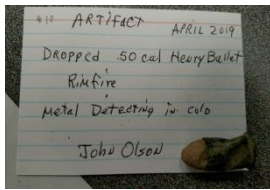
**Best Mineral** –Kevin Singel with some Petrified wood that he found in East Parker.

**Best Artifact** – John Olson with an old .45 shell he found while metal detecting.

**Best Bottle** – There was no entry in this category this month.

**Most Raw Gold** – Kevin Singel with 2.02 grams of gold he found while prospecting several locations.

**Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry in this category this month.



Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the membership each month. We would like to know what everyone else is finding so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their names published in the Newsletter. There are seven (7) categories to choose from when entering. Winners of the monthly judging will need to save and return with their winning find next November 2019, when the Finds of the Year will be judged. DON'T FORGET SAVE THEM!!!!

### Local Gold Mining News Notes:

**Local Gold Mining News Notes:** *Interestingly, there has been very little localized news in the last few months and suddenly, with the increase in gold prices, comes a flurry of gold news....go figure!*

**3-2-19: Blue River Turns Orange** - In Breckenridge, Colorado, the Blue River suddenly turned orange. Officials were investigating on April 26 when the sudden water color changed. The source is said to be a spill from an abandoned mine upriver from the town. The source appears to be from a mine near the intersection of Boreas Pass Road and Bright Hope Circle. Officials recommended that people and pets avoid contact with this water. All local water districts have been notified. The Blue River feeds into Dillon Reservoir, which provides drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people on the Front Range and in the Denver area.

### Western Stagecoach History - An Amazing Story

TRUCKEE, Calif. — Western stagecoach companies were big business in the latter half of the 19th century. In addition to passengers and freight, stages hauled gold and silver bullion as well as mining company payrolls.

Stage robbery was a constant danger and bandits employed many strategies to ambush a stagecoach. Thieves rarely met with much resistance from stage drivers, since they had passenger safety foremost in mind. The gang was usually after the Wells Fargo money box with its valuable contents. Passengers were seldom hurt, but they were certainly relieved of their cash, watches and jewelry. Before the completion of the transcontinental railroad over Donner Pass in 1868, the only transportation through the Sierra was by stage. Rugged teamsters held rein over six wild-eyed horses as they tore along the precipitous mountain trails. The stagecoaches were driven by skilled and fearless men who pushed themselves and their spirited horses to the limit.





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One of the most famous drivers was Charles Darkey Parkhurst, who had come west from New England in 1852 seeking his fortune in the Gold Rush. He spent 15 years running stages, sometimes partnering with Hank Monk, the celebrated driver from Carson City. Over the years, Parkhurst's reputation as an expert whip grew, while doing it with a patch over one eye which was lost when kicked by a horse.

From 20 feet away he could slice open the end of an envelope or cut a cigar out of a man's mouth. Parkhurst smoked cigars, chewed wads of tobacco, drank with the best of them, and exuded supreme confidence behind the reins. His judgment was sound and pleasant manners won him many friends.

One afternoon as Charley drove down from Carson Pass the lead horses veered off the road and a wrenching jolt threw him from the rig. He hung on to the reins as the horses dragged him along on his stomach. Amazingly, Parkhurst managed to steer the frightened horses back onto the road and save all his grateful passengers.

During the 1850s, bands of surly highwaymen stalked the roads. These outlaws would level their shotguns at stage drivers and shout, "Throw down the gold box!" Charley Parkhurst had no patience for the crooks despite their demands and threatening gestures.

The most notorious road agent was nicknamed "Sugarfoot." When he and his gang accosted Charley's stage, it was the last robbery the thief ever attempted.

Charley cracked his whip defiantly, and when his horses bolted, he turned around and fired his revolver at the crooks. Sugarfoot was later found dead with a fatal bullet wound in his stomach.

In appreciation of his bravery, Wells Fargo presented Parkhurst with a large watch and chain made of solid gold. In 1865, Parkhurst grew tired of the demanding job of driving and he opened his own stage station. He later sold the business and retired to a ranch near Soquel, Calif. The years slipped by and Charley died on Dec. 29, 1879, at the age of 67.

A few days later, the Sacramento Daily Bee published his obituary. It read;

"On Sunday last, there died a person known as Charley Parkhurst, aged 67, who was well-known to old residents as a stage driver. He was, in early days, accounted one of the most expert manipulators of the reins who ever sat on the box of a coach. It was discovered when friendly hands were preparing him for his final rest, that Charley Parkhurst was unmistakably a well-developed woman!"

Once it was discovered that Charley was a woman, there were plenty of people to say they had always thought he wasn't like other men. Even though he wore leather gloves summer and winter, many noticed that his hands were small and smooth. He slept in the stables with his beloved horses and was never known to have had a girlfriend.

Charley never volunteered clues to her past. Loose fitting clothing hid her femininity and after a horse kicked her, an eye patch over one eye helped conceal her face. She weighed 175 pounds, could handle herself in a fistfight and drank whiskey like one of the boys.

It turns out that Charley's real name was Charlotte Parkhurst. Abandoned as a child, she was raised in a New Hampshire orphanage unloved and surrounded by poverty. Charlotte ran away when she was 15 years old and soon discovered that life in the working world was easier for men. So, she decided to masquerade as one for the rest of her life.

### **Now for the rest is history.**

Well, almost. There is one last thing. On November 3, 1868, Charlotte Parkhurst cast her vote in the national election, dressed as a man. She became the first woman to vote in the United States, 52 years before Congress passed the 19th amendment giving American women the right to vote.

## **Beginners Spring Panning/slucing Class**

Club members gathered on Saturday, April 6 on Clear Creek at Arapaho Bar to greet the largest Beginners' Class we have ever hosted. 31 folk joined us with a yellow gleam in their eyes to learn and polish some basic panning skills. We even had about 6 cub scouts or so in the group. The panning went well and everyone had the opportunity to work on the techniques taught and to use them to pan out real gold in the concentrates provided which had been previously dug from lower Clear Creek. The test pans on that dig showed 30 colors to the pan. The weather for the day was again perfect and everyone had a good time. We then advanced to the sluicing portion of the Class and went through all the appropriate steps required in setting up a sluice box. The set we obtained was again, perfect, and we proceeded to run all the material the group had previously panned as well as what was left in the three buckets that we had provided for the panning portion of the Class. Once the cleanup had been accomplished, the attendees had the opportunity to see how much more material



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could be processed by using the sluice box and they were able to see the quantity of gold present. There were many 'oohs and aahs' which is always nice to hear. Many thanks go to the many Club members who always pitch in to help get this event accomplished. Recognition go to Joe Fortunato, Jack Meineke, Bibby Manning, Andy Doll, Roger Schlenger, John Johnson, Steve Overton, Frank Zahn and Steve Barritt. Hopefully I didn't miss anyone but truly appreciate all of those of you who come down and pitch in. I did manage to get a few photos as well.



## 2019 GPAA Gold and Treasure SHOW

The GPAA brought the Gold and Treasure Show back to Denver on April 13 and 14 and the two day run brought many people from the mining and non-mining community out to see the latest in equipment and supplies and to take in some of the very entertaining programs put on by folks like Kevin Singel of the GPR and Kevin Hoaglund of the GPAA. Although the number of vendors was lighter than previous years, there were over 30 present including our Club which had a booth as well. We talked to a lot of people during the show which is why we do this each time they come to town. We always get a chance to talk about gold and gold prospecting/mining. And we always increase the membership each year as well, and this year was no different. Though Club sales were down, it was a very successful Show. I noted several new products out and some variations of a lot of the old products. The central draw was the Panning area which was sponsored by Felix's Pay Dirt. This area was swamped the entire time the Show was open. Of course, the draw was that the troughs were salted and you could keep any gold you panned. There was plenty of gold to find and a nugget was planted each day for some lucky panner to find. The local Foothills Chapter of the GPAA was the local Club Sponsor and asked us for assistance in helping put the Show on. Many thanks go to the many GPR Club members who volunteered their time to help make the Show the success it was. Thank you to Joe Johnston, Steve Barritt, Roger Schlenger, James Shearer, David Sheldon, John Brinkey, Carl Adams, Steve Overton, Steve Miller, Gordon Smith, Yvonne Smith, Mike Hurtado, Mike Stevens, Dave Snyder and Jackie Snyder.



## First Prospecting Outing of Year

On April 27, The Club ventured up to Blackhawk for our first prospecting outing of the year. Pres. Long has gone on record saying that he always manages to pick good days for these events and he hit this one on the head again. Though the morning was chilly to start, the 30 plus members in attendance started with a general trash cleanup for the property owners. We managed to collect 7 completely full trash bags of more than 210 gallons of trash along with 2 old tires, and a huge pile of misc. materials that we had to haul off. By that time, the sun was out and it was warm enough to remove jackets and go to work. When it was all said and done, and the buckets loaded, we broke for lunch and then traveled down to lower Clear Creek where we set up the high bankers and ran everybody's material for them. The test pans of concentrates that Pres. Long did for various members showed that everyone got some gold. Preliminary test panning showed that Jack Meineke may have done the best of all in terms of sizes. Bottom line was that everybody had fun and found some gold. It just doesn't get any better than that!! (Photos by Pres. Long)



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## **A Glimpse into Colorado History**

**TOLLAND (Mammoth), EAST PORTAL and CORONA:** TOLLAND was a stage station between Rollinsville and East Portal. Later, with the construction of the Moffat Tunnel, it became a railroad station. Although little used, the station still stands. Tolland, once called Mammoth, was named by Mrs. Charles R. Toll for her family's ancestral home in England. Mrs. Toll operated a large hotel here during the early years of this century, and was also postmistress. East Portal and Corona were primarily construction towns, busy during the construction of fabulous Corona Pass, and East Portal continued its importance during the construction of the Moffat Tunnel, while Corona disappeared. Nothing remains of Corona and there is little evidence of its history, but it was located at the top of the Continental Divide (11,600 feet) and was the highest station in the world at one time. Corona Pass is again gaining in popularity. The scenic, although sometimes hazardous pass, runs from East Portal to Winter Park, a distance of 28 miles. It is one of the oldest and most historic passes in the state. Long before the white men came, the pass was a favorite Indian trail. It is believed to be the trail the Mormons took enroute to the Great Salt Lake. It was later improved upon and used by the US Army. General John W. Rollins (see Rollinsville) greatly improved upon the road in 1866, and officially is still called Rollins Pass. David R. Moffat began construction of a railroad route over the pass in 1901. The railroad line was completed in 1909, and continued in use until the Moffat Tunnel was completed in 1928. The pass was frequently hazardous and was piled high with snow much of the year. Even today, it is open only from about July to the first big snowstorm in September or October. Long railroad snowshoes were constructed at strategic points, but some were destroyed by the snow and others burned down in the 30's. The old Denver and Salt Lake budgeted up to 41 per cent of its operating budget for snow removal alone. Recent improvements have been made on the road by Boulder and Gilpin Counties, and by the Colorado Game and Fish Department, and the US Forest Service. Governor Steve McNichols presided at the re-opening of the route in 1956. At that time, he expressed the hope that the road would someday be paved, and at these ceremonies, it was called Corona Pass. The improved road follows the railroad grade and is therefore gentle in slope, averaging about a four per cent grade. The road is usually open to two-way traffic but there are some narrow sections. The road crosses two of the original trestles near the summit and crosses gullies more than 1000 feet deep. The road gives access to Middle Park and about 20 fishing lakes, some located near the top of the Continental Divide. The Moffat Tunnel, second largest railroad tunnel in the United States, was the dream of David H. Moffat. His railroad line over Corona Pass was too costly for profit and he hoped one day to drive a tunnel through the divide. But he and his partners has spent too much on developing the railroad with much of the cost going to the development of Corona Pass. He then led the lobby for the state's construction of the tunnel. As a result, the Colorado Legislature created the Moffat Tunnel Improvement District in 1922. The Moffat Tunnel Commission was created and bonds issued to finance the project. Original estimate of construction costs was set at \$6,120,000, but when the work was completed in 1927, the price tag had topped 18 million dollars. There are two tunnels, one used as a water diversion before for the City of Denver. And the other is for railroads. The route became a part of the Denver and Rio Grande Western in 1947. It is used as a regular route of ski trains from Denver to Winter Park in the winter, and cuts 176 miles off the old D & RGW route to Salt Lake City. **To be continued next month.**

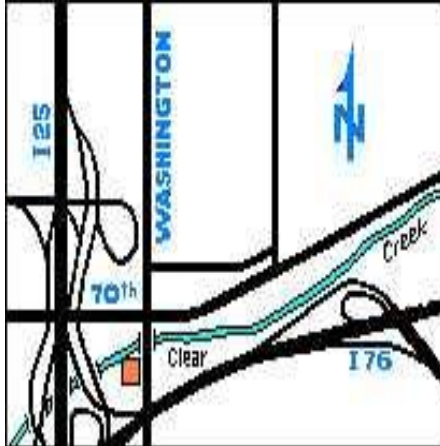


*(Excerpts taken from the 1968 printing of The Guide to the Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps by Perry Eberhar)*





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**Contact the GPR President**

*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Jun 2019**

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 D-Day	7	8
9	10	11 WMMI Speakers' Bureau Lecture Steam power	12	13	14 Flag Day Army Birthdav	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19 GPR Club Meeting	20	21	22 GPR Outing Lake Gulch
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29