

Ken Barker Will Be Missed By Everyone But Forgotten By No One

By Steven Cychosz, GPR Past President



There is no way I can possibly express my deepest condolences to the Barker family and to all of our fine Gold Prospectors of the Rockies club members about the sudden passing of **Ken Barker**. I cannot help but hug all the people around me because, as sure as the sun rises tomorrow, one of us may not be there for another hug. I know Ken will be missed by everyone but forgotten by no one. Ken touched many people around the world through his travels, including thousands of school children in Colorado, by contributing his time, money, and effort into teaching them how to find their first flakes of gold. His contributions to his family, to this club, and to the children of this state are immeasurable and will live on forever.

I first met Ken Barker while gold panning in Clear Creek Canyon during the early 1990s. He was driving a late model VW "Bug" with his high-banker strapped to the front bumper (which must have made it the first true "Gold Bug"). It was quite a sight and I wish I had taken a photo because it is one of my fondest memories. Ken would stop by my prospecting stand and help me sell prospecting equipment, gold nuggets, and beef jerky along the roadside. He never asked for or seemed to want anything. He just gave of himself.

In the mid 1990s, Ken advised me and aided me with my idea of starting a gold prospecting club in Denver and he helped me turn the idea into a reality--hence our club, the GPR. **Jim Davis**, president from 1998 through 2000, organized several club trips to Alaska. In the late 1990s, I was able to go on one of those *(Continued on page 2)*

The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, GPR President

Here we are in 2004!



I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends. Thanks to all the GPR members who attended the December potluck. What a great way to spend an evening-with great food and great friends. Kathy and I had a fun time getting and wrapping the 75 gifts that were given out for the drawing segment of the meeting. Check elsewhere in this edition of *The Gold Nugget* for a list of drawing winners.

We ended 2003 with some clear, but cold,

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The VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Here comes 2004!



It's gonna be a great year for GPR members and their families. There are already plans in the making for day outings and some weekend trips to known gold producing areas.

I plan to continue with the "Spur of the Moment" prospecting trips that got started by **Ken Barker** and several other members. After the weather

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trips only because Ken Barker bought me a round-trip plane ticket from Denver to Anchorage and on to Fairbanks with his frequent flyer miles, which brings to mind another fond memory. One night, Ken and I sat down for dinner at 11 p.m. at a sidewalk café on Main Street in downtown Anchorage. With the sun still shining, I ate the biggest piece of the most delightfully prepared piece of Halibut that I had ever tasted. Without Ken's generosity, I simply would not have been able to experience the largest state in America and find my first gold nuggets using a Minelab metal detector loaned to me by another fine club member, **Rick LaCombe**.

More recently, in the summer of 2002, I was attending the club outing near Leadville hosted by **Rick Miska**, president from 2001 through 2002, and ran over a large wood screw. Miles from anywhere I got a flat tire but had no spare. I had a tire plug kit but no air pump. I surveyed all the participating club members, thinking to myself, "Who would have the foresight to carry a 12-volt air compressor in his vehicle?" I then thought, "Ken Barker would!" Ken did and he turned what was going to be for me a pain-in-the-neck kind of day into a smooth sailing one.

Gary Hawley, our current president (2003 through 2004 and beyond?), just lost his right-hand man and his most valued adviser, our 2003 vice-president Ken Barker. Ken, the most dedicated club member I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, will be missed by all. I really don't know what else to say except, "Thanks Ken! You touched my life, my mind, my heart, and I miss you deeply. I know you are enjoying that eternal gold mine in the sky and are conversing with John A. Sutter, Lewis and Clark, Sitting Bull, and other great adventurers like yourself. Your friend and fellow prospector, **Steven Cychosz.**"

Steven Cychosz (pronounced SEE-kawsh) founded the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies in 1995 and was the club's first president from 1995 to 1997.

(Continued from Prez Sez, page 1)

days. Snow in the mountains and sunshine along the Front Range. Life in Colorado--it just doesn't get better than that. If you plan to go prospecting, be sure to check the weather situation for the area you are going to and prepare accordingly.

2003 was a busy year for the GPR and I would like to touch on just a few of the major things that occurred:

- It was my first year as President of the GPR with **Ken Barker** as Vice President.
- **Dick Oakes** became editor of The Gold Nugget and gave the newsletter a new look.
- We have maintained open communication with Jefferson County Open Space and we still have permission to prospect in Clear Creek Canyon.
- We had our first official metal detecting competition hunt.
- There were planned tours/outings for nearly every month.
- There was a weekend outing and prospecting tour in Alma.
- We joined the Rocky Mountain Prospectors and Treasure Hunters (RMPTH) club in a tour of the South Pass, Wyoming, mining district led by Dan Housel, Chief Economic Geologist for Wyoming.
- Ken Barker arranged for numerous panning demonstrations including: Buffalo Bill Days in Golden, Pumpkin Festival at Denver's Four Mile History Park, numerous weekends in Central City for the Central City Visitors Center, Arvada Gold Strike Festival, Englewood's 4th of July Celebration at Belleview Park, and a private panning demo in Vail.
- The Rocky Mountain News highlighted the GPR with two full pages, including photos, in the Spotlight Section of the paper.
- Several of our panning demo volunteers decided to wear 1860s clothing at all panning demos to add a feel of the old mining days.
- **Dick Oakes** upgraded our web site and keeps it current. He advises we have had more than 37,500 "hits" since going online.
- Club membership has increased from 97 in January, 2003, to 126 in December.
- The Club treasury was \$2,166 in January 2003. It will be close to \$4,500 by January's meeting night.

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Some members of your GPR 2003 and 2004 Boards of Directors. From left to right, Allen Mershon, Joe Shubert, Cindy Douthard, Hank Innerfeld, Sue Clover, Jeff Mosteller, Gary Hawley, Pinie Conell, Shawn Conell, Wayne Hale, Ken Oyler, and Terry Weatherly.

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January 2004

GPR Events Calendar						
Month	Date(s)	Time(s)	Activity	Information	Presenter/Coordinator(s)	
Jan	21	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Feb	18	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Mar	17	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Apr	21	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Мау	19	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Jun	16	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Jul	21	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Aug	18	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Sep	15	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Oct	20	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Nov	17	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	Presentation:		
Dec	15	7:00 p.m.	Meeting	GPR Annual Potluck Christmas Dinner		

All GPR meeting presentations and trip activities are subject to change. Non-club prospecting-related events may be included for your information. Members attending any trip activities are asked to **be sure to sign up or contact the event coordinator prior to the activity to allow planning for an estimated number of people** and so attendees may be contacted in the event of any change, cancellation, or rescheduling.

Dowsing In Our Daily Lives

By Hank Innerfeld, Dowsing Coordinator

Dowsing is a skill that can be applied in so many forms to assist us in our daily lives. Finding lost items, determining which foods best honor us, determining what serves our nutritional needs, the benefits of taking/not-taking an action, getting better understanding of a choice, selecting the best route to travel, picking the best greeting/birthday cards in moments, determining if we're being told the truth, finding the ripest fruit, locating underground water, etc. And for those in the GPR, the best locations on the stream to do your prospecting!

One Thursday I had a phone call from a frantic dog owner who said her dog had gotten outside their fence on Monday and hadn't returned home. Could I help? I told her I didn't know, but I'd surely try. I asked her the dog's name, basically connected to the dog energetically, and asked some questions. Was it still alive? (yes). Had the dog's soul chosen to leave the body? (no.) Was it just lost? (yes). When could they expect the dog to return home? (within 1.2 days). She e-mailed me overjoyed the following day to let me know that the dog was returned that next morning.



A friend recently had surgery and was concerned as to whether the prescribed pain-killing medication was hurting her body over the long term. We dowsed the appropriate dosage and frequency to take the medicine, which would still reduce/eliminate the pain with the minimal side-effects to her body.

A client called regarding acquiring an attorney for assistance with a legal matter involving her son. There were four possible attorneys on her list. We dowsed (on a scale of 1-100) what the benefit was for her to work with each one (the answers ranged from 42% to 91%). She selected the one with a greater than 90% benefit and was very happy with both the attorney and the outcome.

The key to success with dowsing (after developing your initial dowsing abilities) is learning how to ask the questions which will provide the answers you're actually seeking... for you will get accurate answers to all questions... the trick is to ask the appropriate question. For example, there are many treasure hunters who will ask if there is treasure? After getting a yes, they'll spend much time and effort digging and searching... with limited success. They really need to further research with questions like: Has this treasure already been found? Has it been moved from this location? or is it still in this location? How deep? To my left, right, front, back? How many feet? With this understanding/expanded-questioning you will have both greater success and widen your understanding of how to apply your dowsing skills to assist in specific life-situations.

In addition to being a GPR board member, Hank is the VP of the Mile-High Dowsing Society. He both practices and teaches alternative healing throughout the U.S. All who attend his Spiritual Response Therapy (SRT) classes also leave with effective dowsing capabilities applicable to their daily lives.

Notes from GPR Meetings of December 17, 2003

Board Meeting

by Gary Hawley, President

Roll Call

In Attendance: Gary Hawley, Jeff Mosteller, Sue Clover, Pinie Conell, Shawn Conell, Wayne Hale, Allen Mershon, Ken Oyler, and Joe Shubert.

Visiting 2004 Board Members: Cindy Douthard, Hank Innerfeld, and Terry Weatherly.

Quorum Present?

Yes.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Gary Hawley.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Read by Gary Hawley and approved as read.

Treasurer's report

Accepted as read and available at tonight's general meeting. *Information Item:* We received monies for the Vail panning demo.

Correspondence

Membership renewals and newsletter from RMPTH.

Committee Reports

Eight committee reports submitted by **Dick Oakes**, Coordinator.

Unfinished Business

- Annual "Ken Barker Award." Gary Hawley. Jeff Mosteller is moving ahead with this project. He is attempting to contact the artist who did the drawing of Ken to get written approval to use the drawing.
- *Club Trommel.* **Allen Mershon.** Allen will be visiting the current location of the Club trommel to determine the actual value and condition of the unit. He will report his findings to the Board and a decision will be made as to the fate of the trommel.

Liability Insurance. Gary Hawley. Allen Mershon is gathering information. This will be an ongoing process and may take some time to complete.

New Business

None.

Planned Outings

Refer to the GPR Events Calendar posted in The Gold Nugget.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting: January 21, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. Next General Meeting: January 21, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. Tonight's general meeting program: Annual potluck dinner and drawing for gifts.

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre

An excerpt from a conversation between [a bandit in a] "Gold Hat" (Alfonso Bedoya) and Fred C. Dobbs (Humphrey Bogart):

[GH] ¡Hola Señor! We are Federales. You know, the mounted police. [FCD] If you're the police, where are your badges?

[GH] Badges? We ain't got no badges. We don't need no badges. I don't have to show you any stinking badges!

Please wear your yellow plastic badges to GPR meetings!

General Meeting

By Dick Oakes, General Meeting Recorder

President Gary Hawley opened the meeting by asking **Andrew Neuhalfen to** lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Membership Committee chair, **Dick Oakes**, said we now have 126 members and welcomed returning member **Lewis Mitcham**.

Then the fun began with everyone enjoying the fantastic potluck, headlined by **Allen Mershon**'s creamy trout bread spread.

About the time all the food had been consumed, the drawing was held by Santa and Mrs. Santa Gary & Kathy Hawley, and their elves Jeff & Donna Mosteller, and Sue Clover, with Judy Hale making the list and checking it twice. Gifts were either purchased by Gary & Kathy or donated, such as the Christmas ornament beaded by Carol Oakes.

Although Santa Claus wasn't really there in costume, some folks thought **LeRoy Lamgo** looked the part! A good time was had by all.

The Old Prospector

The old prospector, after breaking a bottle of liquor on the floor of his shack, went to bed. The resident rat, after lapping up all the liquor, went to the cabin door, struck an arrogant pose, and yelled, "Here, kitty, kitty!"

The next day, the old prospector marched into the assayer's office, planted two huge nuggets on the counter, and said, "Well, don't just stand there, assay something!"

Finding out from the assayer that he had a bonanza, the old prospector went to the local saloon and got drunk. In his stupor, he let it out to the old boys in the saloon where his claim could be found. That sure was a lode off his mind!

Claim jumpers killed the old prospector who went to Hell. He made a deal with Lucifer, however: if he could get all the other prospectors to come to Hell, he'd be allowed to go to Heaven. He started a rumor that there were huge amounts of gold in Hell and all the prospectors soon arrived. But then the old prospector asked if he could stay in Hell after all. When the Devil asked why, the old prospector said, "Well... what if all the rumors turn out to be true?"

2004 Officers and Board Revised

Found a small (okay, "large") typo in last month's article (apologies to **Ken Oyler**). Here are the 2004 Officers and Board:

President	Gary Hawley
Vice President	Jeff Mosteller
Treasurer	Kathy Hawley
2-Year Board Member	
2-Year Board Member	Ken Oyler
2-Year Board Member	Joe Shubert
Board Member	Sue Clover
Board Member	Shawn Conell
Board Member	Cindy Douthard
Board Member	Hank Innerfeld
Board Member	Allen Mershon
Board Member	Terry Weatherly

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January 2004

Xmas Drawing Winners

By Kathy Hawley, Drawings Coordinator

Door Prizes

Door Prizes	
1.1 gram Gold Nugget	
0.9 gram Gold Nugget	Dick Oakes
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	Debbie Bothwell
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	Mike Bothwell
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	Bill Carr
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
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1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	Doul Negy
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	Ina Swisher
1999 Silver Eagle, 1 oz., .999 fine	Don Tiglas
Activity Book w/Colored Pencils	
Black Sand Magnet	
Blue Gold Pan, Pipette, and Vial	D.J. Janssen
Blue Gold Pan, Pipette, and Vial	
Chili Soup	
Chili Soup	
Chili Soup	Shirley Weilnau
Chocolates by Pot of Gold	Frank Conte
Chocolates by Pot of Gold	Ken Oyler
Chocolates by Toblerone	Ed Finney
Colorado Gold Coupon Book	Bob Miosec
Colorado Gold Coupon Book Cowboy Sculpture	Bob Miosec
Colorado Gold Coupon Book Cowboy Sculpture Digging Tool	Bob Miosec Hank Innerfeld Cindy Douthard
Colorado Gold Coupon Book Cowboy Sculpture Digging Tool Eagle Shirt	Bob Miosec Hank Innerfeld Cindy Douthard Donald Fling
Colorado Gold Coupon Book Cowboy Sculpture Digging Tool Eagle Shirt Eagle Shirt.	Bob Miosec Hank Innerfeld Cindy Douthard Donald Fling Linda Shubert
Colorado Gold Coupon Book Cowboy Sculpture Digging Tool Eagle Shirt Eagle Shirt Dry Cell Flashlight by Eveready	Bob Miosec Hank Innerfeld Cindy Douthard Donald Fling Linda Shubert Don Dixon
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Pocket Magnifier	Terry Weatherly		
Prospector Dream Catcher			
Prospector Dream Catcher	Hank Innerfeld		
Prospector Poster, Framed	Larry Armstrong		
Rock Tumbler	Noah Neuhalfen		
Sauces by Jim Beam	Marc Johnson		
Simpsons Dominos	J.J. Neuhalfen		
Video	Allen Mershon		
Water Bottle with Blue Ice	Mary Fortunato		
Water Bottle with Blue Ice	Marten Swisher		
Whistle, Space Blanket, Poncho	Judy Hale		
Whistle, Space Blanket, Poncho	Jay Nunn		
Wolf Picture, Framed	Judy Meyer		
Christmas Ornament			

Hand-beaded Ornament Lewis Mitcham (Donated by Carol Oakes)

Big Winners!





Mike Bothwell wins \$50

Jeff Mosteller wins E-Z Sluice

Welcome New Members

By Dick Oakes, Membership Coordinator

The third person to join the GPR back in 1995 was Lewis Mitcham. He dropped out for a few years, but as of the December meeting, he's with us again and we welcome him back. If you like clear crystal selenite, check out his website at www.utahice.com.

Judy Meyer listed herself as a guest at the meeting, too, although she's the spouse of member **Fritz Meyer**! Great to have you at the meeting, Judy. Come on back and join the fun in 2004!

The Q&A

By Rick Miska, Q&A Coordinator

The Question for January is:

Q: Established in 1859, what saloon is the oldest continuously operated bar West of the Mississippi?

Members who submit the correct answer to this question at the next meeting will receive a red ticket for the nugget drawing.

January GPR Birthdays

The following GPR members were born in January. Be sure to wish them Happy Birthday!

Bobby Breeden, Bernard Bryan, Bill Carr, Rose Ann Knight, Fred Lorenz, Diane McCarroll, Jeff Mosteller, Doris Sauerland, and Al Warren.

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ADVERTISING

in The Gold Nugget

Commercial Ads

Business Card Size\$	6
Quarter-Page\$	12
Half-Page\$	24
Full-Page\$	48

Non-commercial Classifieds

Non-business Classifieds Free to GPR Members

Send ad copy to goldnugget@phantomranch.net (deadline five days before the month of publication) For further info, see the GPR website

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

SMALL HOUSE FOR SALE

This 2-bedroom house in Bonanza, Colorado, has a large kitchen, storage room, wood stove for cooking, and an electric heater. There is, however, no water available. Prospecting and hunting are allowed. \$18,000 (Negotiable/Trade). Contact Teena Swisher, (303) 428-5696, Ext. 237 (Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

TRAILER FOR SALE

Trailer made from a white half-ton Ford pickup bed (don't know year) with 15-inch tires and two-inch ball. \$125.00. Contact Rick Miska, (303) 404-2897, RichardM@imrgold.com

SUPER DETECTOR FOR SALE

Minelab SD-2100 metal detector with 8", 11", and 15" Coils. Contact Ken Oyler for all the details. (303) 696-7230, (303) 523-8046, goldfinder2@comcast.net

Gold is Where You Find It

No matter what the geologist says, gold is where you find it. ${\sim} Harry \, Oliver$

Dig where the gold is...unless you just need some exercise. ~John M. Capozzi

The Potato Patch mine proved that "gold is where you find it." In 1902, a Boulder farmer dug a hill of potatoes, found a nugget, scratched off the top soil, and opened a pay hole. ~Al Look

Another way to find a gold mine is with a gun. The Buckskin Joe district was discovered in 1860 when a prospector shot at a deer, missed, and hit a gold mine. This is when Buckskin Joe was northwest of Fairplay, not the rim of the Royal Gorge. ~Al Look

A poverty-stricken prospector named Long near Leadville in 1867 went out to shoot his breakfast. When his deer kicked up some dirt that looked promising, another pay lode was found. ~Al Look

The Gold Nugget

This copyrighted newsletter is the official publication of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies (GPR), PO Box 621988, Littleton, Colorado 80162-1988, a non-profit organization of professionally minded prospectors dedicated to gold prospecting.

Membership in the GPR is \$40 the first year and \$30 each subsequent year for an individual or family and includes a one-year subscription to *The Gold Nugget*, one name tag, and a membership card for each family member.

We meet at the Lloyd G. Clements Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado, on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. sharp to educate members about gold prospecting and gold prospecting rules, review old and new products, coordinate outings, participate in drawings for door prizes and nuggets, socialize with like-minded friendly folks, and promote the pursuit of gold.

Deadline for all newsletter submissions is five days before the month of publication. Single issues are \$3.00 per copy (postpaid). Dick Oakes, Editor, goldnugget@phantomranch.net.



Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Food for Thought

By Donna Mosteller, Refreshments Coordinator

What a great turnout at the potluck last month. I don't think anyone left hungry. Thanks to everyone for making it happen. A special thanks, if I may, to Santa Gary and Mrs. Santa Kathy for making it an even more festive evening. I think a great time was had by all.

January starts a new year. Most organizations choose this time to make changes and so are we. Instead of asking for volunteers each month for the snack table here's what we'll attempt this year: the club will provide coffee, sodas, all paper products and one snack tray type item. Donations, however, will still be needed for this part.

If anyone gets the urge to bring in extra snacks feel free to do so, it would be at your cost though. And if we could keep it to snack-type items, that would be great. Let's give it a shot and see how it goes. Thank you for your support.





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From the Library

By Dick Oakes

Gold Placers and Placering in Arizona, The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1961.

From the Arizona Bureau of Mines, this book (Bulletin 168) is a fount of information for the prospector looking to find gold in the Grand Canyon State. In addition to details about general features of gold placers, including origins; distribution relationships to pediments, streams, geology, and types of veins; and information about yearly rainy seasons, this 124 page softcover book goes into the history of Arizona gold placer mining. The book follows in the footsteps of the 1922 version (Bulletin 118) by M.A.

Allen, a second work by Eldred D. Wilson in 1927 (Bulletin 124), a new and greatly enlarged publication by Wilson (Bulletin 132), and a more comprehensive work in 1933 by G.M. Butler (Bulletin 142).

In Part I by Eldred D. Wilson, placers are listed by districts and by name within each gold-producing county with history and production fugures. In Part II by George R. Fansett, titled "Small Scale Gold Placering," the book covers Facts About Gold, Seeking Placer Gold, Placer Equipment and Methods, Tables and Conversion Data, and Selling Gold.

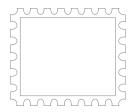
Part III by Charles J. Johnson is a "Suggested List of Equipment for Prospecting in the Southwest."

The Appendix by G.H. Roseveare gives information about mining operations from 1951 to 1961. There also is a comprehensive Index.

The 28 black-and-white illustrations complement the text nicely and include plans for a knock-down rocker box, a long tom, a small sluice box, and retort setup. Also shown are the method of laying out a sluice box and the differences in riffles, along with maps and tables of information.



The Gold Nugget GOLD PROSPECTORS OF THE ROCKIES PO Box 621988 Littleton, CO 80162-1988



DATED MATERIAL

Please check the **date** on your label to see the last month you may renew your GPR membership and continue your subscription to *The Gold Nugget* without interruption. Thanks, and happy prospecting!

□ Renew today □ Last newsletter

FIRST CLASS

(Continued from Prez Sez, page 2)

- Ken Barker and Jeff & Donna Mosteller were live on the Channel 2 early morning news show with Dan Daru. They demonstrated prospecting and panning techniques along Clear Creek.
- Ken Barker and I were on Channel 7 television along with Mary Jane Duran to highlight the Pumpkin Festival at Denver's Four Mile History Park.
- Our most painful situation was the passing of **Ken Barker**. He had been a major contributor to the advancement of gold prospecting in general and the GPR in particular. We will continue the work that he started.
- · The annual "Ken Barker Award" was initiated.

There have been many other individual and group accomplishments that have contributed to the success of the GPR. Too many to list, but let it be known that all are appreciated. Thank you for your support in 2003 and thank you for allowing me to be President again in 2004. Let us see what we can do to further gold prospecting and the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies in the New Year.

Until next time: May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.

50th Annual Tucson Show Theme is GOLD!

The 50th Annual Tucson Gem & Mineral Show will be held February 12-15, 2004, at the Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, Arizona. This year's show theme is GOLD!

Of course, GPR members **Steve & Bev Rice** of Colorado Nuggets will be there with their large collection of gold for purchase as well as a couple of huge nuggets for display. If you want to see one of these nuggets, check out the Colorado Nuggets website at www.coloradonuggets.com.

For additional information regarding times, admission fee, children, advanced ticket sales, daily door prizes, and to view/download/print the beautiful poster, see the official website at http://www.tgms.org/

(Continued from VP's Corner, page 1)

warms up and the Spring runoff subsides, I will plan monthly panning trips to places in Clear Creek Canyon and along Highway 119 near Black Hawk.

While working at the "Old Timer" back in "00," I learned of a few good bed rock prospects that I have been wanting to explore. Recently, Donna and I trekked up the canyon to check things out. It won't be long before one of the prospecting areas I have in mind will become available. I have been watching this area for the past few years and have checked out the history of when it was last dredged. I have personally seen a half-ounce nugget that came from this area. It's gonna take some work to get to paydirt but I'm sure it will be worth the effort.

New members, this will give you a chance to test some equipment before you decide to make a purchase. This also might be an opportunity for metal detectorists to test their skills.

I also have located a quartz streak in the canyon that runs up through some old river beds. It's about 20 inches wide and runs for about 50 feet. I'll have more information on this as the summer gets closer.

I also am working on some new panning demonstrations that promise to be a lot of fun for those who get involved. I'll be asking for volunteers in the next couple of months so see me at the General Meetings to sign up for some of these events.

See ya'll at the meeting.