



The Gold Nugget

Vol. 10, No. 1

January 2005

Donna Mosteller is First Ken Barker Award Recipient

By Gary Hawley

Jackie Barker presented the first annual Ken Barker Award to **Donna Mosteller** on December 15, 2004.

As president, I proposed this award in November 2003 in memory of **Ken Barker**, Vice President of the GPR in 2003. Specific qualifications must be met before a member can be considered for this award. Donna met the criteria and received the majority of secret ballots at the November General Membership Meeting.

Donna is an active member of the GPR. During 2004 she was Coordinator of the Refreshments Committee, preparing the refreshments table for each meeting and doing cleanup afterward. She also wrote a monthly newsletter article titled Food for Thought, and assisted our Vice President, **Jeff Mosteller**, with panning demonstrations.

Donna patiently explains gold panning at the demos and possesses a great knowledge of the early years of gold exploration in Colorado. She presents a pleasant demeanor and willingness to help beginner and old-timer alike. Her promotion of gold prospecting and the GPR exemplify the passion for this hobby that **Ken Barker** brought to the organization.



Continued on page 2

The Prez Sez

By Gary Hawley, President

The season has entered into cooler times, actually cold at times. Sunrise and sunset will soon give us a few more minutes of daylight to get things done. Holidays are over and the malls have returned to normal. Now that the hustle and bustle is over, it will be nice to find a quiet place and work on some of the concentrates you accumulated over the summer. No concentrates? Well then, get a map and plan your first prospecting trip in 2005. Read a book about the history of gold in Colorado or plan to visit those old mining camps. This is the time to clean up equipment, work on concentrates, learn more about your hobby, and make prospecting plans.



Our December club meeting/potluck was a great success with 75 members in attendance.

Continued on page 2

VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Happy New Year!

I think I'm still digesting all that wonderful food from the potluck dinner last month. That was the second dinner Donna and I attended. I think I eat too much at these events. I want to thank the club for all the wonderful gifts you bestowed upon my wife and me. I am especially proud of my wife for winning the Ken Barker Award; she worked very hard in promoting gold prospecting during the panning demonstrations and doing the day to day things that the wife of the Vice President



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Join Us on the Third Wednesday!

Lloyd G. Clements Community Center

1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado

(One block west of Wadsworth, then one block north of Colfax)

7:00 p.m. (Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

Information: (303) 933-1147

Website: <http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>

GPR Events Calendar

Month	Date(s)	Time(s)	Activity	Information	Presenter
Jan	19	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation: "Production Mining"	Sam Röhmerger, Ph.D., CSM
Feb	16	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation: "Soil Sampling"	Graham Closs, Ph.D., CSM
Mar	16	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation:	
Apr	20	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation:	
May	18	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation:	
Jun	15	7:00p	Meeting	Presentation:	

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. For events added after the meeting, check the GPR website.

PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE AT PANNING DEMOS ONE HOUR IN ADVANCE OF THE START TIME.

(Continued from Ken Barker Award, pg. 1)

We are fortunate to have Donna as a member of this great club. Congratulations **Donna Mosteller!**



KEN BARKER
1943-2003



JACKIE BARKER
2004 Award Ceremony

Joe Shubert Does Another Great Job

It's tough finding folks to run for office, but that's exactly what Nominating Committee Coordinator **Joe Shubert** did to complete the slate of officers and board members who will guide the GPR through yet another great year.

Joe also organized the balloting for the first annual Ken Barker Award, which went off without a hitch. **Donna Mosteller** took the award with 47 percent of the total vote (the nearest other candidate had just 9 percent). As **Gary Hawley** said, an "overwhelming" margin.

We look forward to another year of Joe's guidance on the GPR Board of Directors and his firm hand at the helm of these and/or other committees in 2005.



About Dogs

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

~Anonymous

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.

~Ann Landers

(Continued from PrezSez, page 1)

There was plenty of food, gifts, and conversation. Thanks to **Donna Mosteller** for coordinating the activities for the potluck dinner.

What a pleasure it was to have **Jackie Barker** to present the first annual Ken Barker Award to **Donna Mosteller**. This award was established in November 2003 to honor the memory of **Ken Barker**, Vice President of the GPR in 2003. The award is designed to recognize the club member who most closely exemplifies the love and passion for gold prospecting that Ken brought to the organization. Donna certainly met and exceeded the qualifications for this award with her many hours of involvement in club activities. Thanks to **Joe Shubert** for heading up the Ken Barker Award Committee.

Kathy and I enjoyed shopping for all the Christmas gifts for the members. Kathy did the wrapping and I supervised--well, stayed out of the way. We have a lot of fun preparing for the party and it appeared that a good time was had by all.

Earlier in the year several members suggested a special recognition for **Jeff & Donna Mosteller** for all the work and hours they put in with the panning demonstrations. The Board of Directors agreed. It was my pleasure to present Jeff & Donna with a gift certificate to the Briarwood Inn in Golden. Thanks to both. We couldn't do it without you.

Thanks to all members for the support you have shown, not only to me, but to the entire Board of Directors. It is only with your input and involvement that we can keep the GPR the leading gold prospecting club along the Front Range. In January there will be a few changes on the Board and within several of the club committees. The club will need a few members to volunteer to fill some slots. I know I can count on YOU!

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I wish you a Safe and Happy New Year! Until next time: May the gold in your pan be worth the effort you put into finding it.

Notes from Last Month's GPR Meetings

Board Meeting

by Gary Hawley, President

The December Board Meeting was an informal gathering of Board Members. Several "wish list" items were mentioned but no formal action was taken. All "Unfinished Business" items will be carried over to the January 19th Board Meeting.

Mining Camps and Ghost Towns

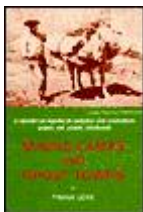
By Frank Love, Westernlore Press, Los Angeles, Calif., 1974

This is a history of mining in Arizona and California along the lower Colorado River. Frank Love, a professor of Social Science at Arizona Western College, has put together a dramatic history of the mineral frontier as it affected this section of the vast American West.

In this revealing and exciting history of the Colorado River's mining camps and ghost towns, Professor Love has dug deep and thoroughly to reconstruct the almost forgotten story. It takes rugged endurance to seek out the moldering, decaying mine-sites and town-sites where millions of dollars in mineral loot was dug, but Professor Love was obviously up to the task (to the benefit of us, his readers!).

There are many old photographs illustrating the book whose chapters take you to the very towns and mines of the area, such as Gila City, La Paz, Picacho, Hedges, and many more.

This fine 5 1/2- x 8 1/2-inch, 192-page, hard-back reference book is available to be checked out as #118 from the GPR library. ~Dick Oakes



A Note from Shawn & Pinie Conell and D.J.

Hello to everyone "From the Last Frontier." Pass along to whomever may be considering relocating to the "Frozen North" not to sell all of their furniture because it is not cheap to replace up here at the Arctic Circle. Be careful and stay warm in the "Lower 48."



Presidents Four

Steven Cychosz 1996-1998, Jim Davis 1998-2000, Rick Miska 2003-2002, Gary Hawley 2003-2005.

General Meeting

By Paul Nagy, General Meeting Recorder

President **Gary Hawley** convenes the meeting. Pledge of Allegiance led by **Jim Jarnutowski**.

Joe Johnston gives the clue of the month for the hidden treasure.

Hank Innerfeld appeals to the membership to donate old cell phones at the January meeting. Credits are applied by a charitable organization to Hodgkins Lymphoma treatment for an ailing individual.

A ceremonial check for \$1,458.50 was presented by VP **Jeff Mosteller** to club treasurer **Kathy Hawley**. The check represents the fees and donations generated by the past year's panning demos. Loud applause for Jeff for all his efforts in running the demos.

Introduction of GPR club founder and past president **Steve Cychosz**. He related how he was intrigued by gold panners along Clear Creek, but was rebuffed by them when he inquired about how it was done. He therefore set out to learn about gold prospecting and form a club where the public could share in the pursuit. He currently is busy with work and finishing his B.S. degree, so he is not able to be a regular at the club meetings, but looks forward to returning in the future. For prospecting he suggests downloading GPS and geologic data from the Internet and plotting gold exploration traverses from it.

Past club president **Jim Davis** announced that he is working on next year's trip to Alaska.

Jackie Barker, assisted by **Joe Shubert**, presented the inaugural Ken Barker Award. In addition to the certificate there was also included a denim jacket with the inscription "Ken Barker Award" and a check for \$100. And the winner was **Donna Mosteller!**

Prez **Gary Hawley** announced some events in the works for next year, including a historic Wyoming tour. Call for applause for club treasurer **Kathy Hawley**. Announcement of Christmas presents for all members in attendance.

Hawley proclaims, "LET'S EAT!"

Distribution of Christmas presents. Group photo of board of directors. Group photo of the four presidents in the 9-year club history: **Steve Cychosz**, **Jim Davis**, **Rick Miska**, **Gary Hawley**.

LET'S EAT SOME MORE!

Adjourn meeting with Best Holiday Wishes to All!

We Get Letters

I saw a program recently called Gold Fever, and it all came back to me. Many fond memories of a new club of folks intent on one thing, finding gold and having fun doing it.

I remember the very first outings in Cherry Creek and Clear Creek. We had great crowds of folks just wanting to learn how to dip a gold pan and work the water so all that was left was heavy and flashed yellow in the sun.

I remember our first camp-out outing in Breckenridge and the bear that woke me up while I slept in my ol' Scout.

I remember the first gold nugget I ever found. A club member took me up to the Central City-Black Hawk area to teach me how to use my new Goldmaster II. That's right, I found a nugget the first time out (which can ruin you for life!).

Looks like you guys have done great things since then. I'm living in South Carolina now and in one swift moment, I was back in Colorado, in the stream, among so many of you who I have missed for too long.

There is an old saying, "You can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy." Well, I believe prospecting is like that.

Missing and thinking of all of you,

Charlie Hawkins



Charlie is a former Editor of the club newsletter. ~Ed

Christmas Party Drawing Winners

By Kathy Hawley, Drawings Coordinator

One-Year Club Membership.....	Ray Hudzik
1.0-Gram Gold Nugget.....	Jim Davis
Colorized Silver Dollar.....	Tom Schneider
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Larry Armstrong
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Mike Barker
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Milt Collum
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Cindy Douthard
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Mary Kathrens
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Donna Mosteller
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Marge Ogden
Silver "Prospector" Coin.....	Joyce Tiglas
Silver Round.....	Andy Doll
Silver Round.....	Joe Shubert
Silver "Pikes Peak" Round.....	Carol Oakes
Colorado Bi-Centennial Coin.....	Marten Swisher
Colorado Bi-Centennial Coin.....	Terry Weatherly
Binoculars.....	Roger Jones
Binoculars.....	Linda Shubert
GPR Club Shirt.....	Bill Duncanson
GPR Club Shirt.....	Paul Nagy
GPR Club Cap.....	Scott Cychosz
GPR Club Cap.....	Shannon Cychosz
GPR Club Cap.....	Dakota Keyser
GPR Club Cap.....	Danielle Vendegnia
Gold Panning Kit.....	Matt Schreiner
Coleman Cooler.....	Bill Duncanson
Eleven-Function Knife.....	Judy Meyer
Explorer's Compass/Knife.....	Steve Cychosz
Five-In-One Screwdriver.....	Sharon Cown
Five-In-One Screwdriver.....	Diane McCarroll
Multi-Function Wrench.....	Joe Fortunato
Ratchet Tie-Down.....	Ed Finney

Ratchet Tie-Down.....	Phillip Keyser
First Aid Bag.....	Allen Mershon
First Aid Kit.....	Kathy Hawley
First Aid Kit.....	LeRoy Lamgo
Lunch Pack.....	Chuck Cown
Lunch Pack.....	Bob Rover
Railroad Spike.....	Don Dixon
Mining in the West Video.....	Wayne McCarroll
Modern Marvels Video.....	Don Tiglas
Colorado Mines Book.....	Hank Innerfeld
Colorado Mines Book.....	Jim Jarnutowski
Mine Hoisting Book.....	Mike Bothwell
Robert Brown Book.....	Debbie Bothwell
Robert Brown Book.....	Jeff Mosteller
Racoon Picture.....	Jackie Barker
Snow Picture.....	Susan Duncanson
Wolf Picture.....	Don Collum
Wolf Picture.....	Con Ogden
Wolf Picture.....	Teena Swisher
Jellies & Jams (4 Jars).....	Rick Miska
Jellies & Jams (8 Jars).....	Jay Nunn
Pot-of-Gold Candy.....	Peg Brozek
Pot-of-Gold Candy.....	Diana Cychosz
Pot-of-Gold Candy.....	Mary Fortunato
Pot-of_Gold Candy.....	Chris Ryan
Bridge Candy Mix.....	Wolf Stumpf
Chocolate-Dipped Cookies.....	Gale Herbertson
Chocolate-Dipped Cookies.....	Joe Johnston
Key Ring.....	Marlin Wiedeman
Water Bottle.....	Bill Carr
Water Bottle.....	Barbara Fling
Water Bottle.....	Fritz Meyer
Water Bottle.....	Dick Oakes
Dream Catcher Ornament.....	Marge Collum
Dream Catcher Ornament.....	Don Green

From the Ledger

of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of the GPR by purchasing drawing tickets. Your support enables me to be very selective of the nuggets I get for the drawings. Thanks again!

Be sure to wear your membership badge at every Club meeting, as we will continue to have a special "Members Only" drawing.

I will have a total of 11.4 grams of gold nuggets for the January meeting. The largest nugget is 2.0 grams.

So like I always say, come prepared to buy some extra tickets and Good Luck!

Food for Thought

by Donna Mosteller, 2004 Refreshments Coordinator

Thanks to everyone for all the wonderful food for the potluck. If you went away hungry it was your own fault. I really think everyone had a good time, and thank you Santa Gary and Elf Kathy for all the gifts. Last but not least, a really big THANK YOU for the Ken Barker Award. I'm at a loss for words on that one. I hope I can serve the club just as well next year. See you at the next meeting and I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Allen Mershon Concentrates

This club has some generous members, but none more generous than Allen Mershon.

Allen gives of himself by holding down a position on the GPR Board of Directors. Allen also gives interesting and informative talks at club meetings to very appreciative audiences. And, you can find him on outings down at creek-side giving helpful prospecting hints to all comers.



Perhaps his generosity is most apparent, however, when he divides his concentrates into baby-food jars to distribute among folks who have helped the club by donating their time at our panning demonstrations.

Thanks, Allen, for being a truly generous member of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies!

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 families 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 membership cards for all family members. Additional badges may be purchased. 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. Final deadline for all article submissions is five days before the month of publication. Single issues are \$3.00 per copy (postpaid).

Who's Who In the GPR:**Donna Mosteller**

I was born in Denver but grew up in the panhandle of Florida. I decided to stay in the Denver area in 1992 after living back and forth between other states and Denver.

My main background is in electronic

manufacturing. I've helped build everything from the Magellan space satellite that mapped Venus, to radar for Fighter Jets, and from Satellites to the rockets that took them to space. Now I work in the kitchen at an assisted living center.

My husband, **Jeff Mosteller**, got me interested in gold panning when I returned from a funeral in Florida in 2000. He had to keep busy while I was gone and that's when he found Frank and Ron at the Old Timer. We went there every weekend after that. We even spent our vacation there (but that's another story by itself). I was really hooked when I found a piece of gold too big to fit in my small vial. I jumped for joy saying "I've got to get a bigger vial."

We found the GPR when we were looking for help to save the Old Timer. We joined the club the same night Jeff wandered in on a meeting scared to death to be in front of strange people, asking for help from the club members in going to the committee meetings in Gilpin county to argue for keeping the property open.

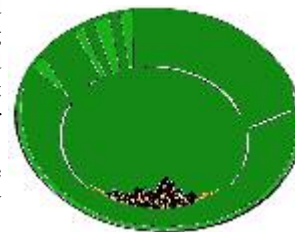
We also found **Ken Barker's** wisdom in the fun of attending the panning demos. Ken had a way with people and he knew I was shy about stepping up to the tub to teach. With Ken's help, I went from shy to stepping up with eagerness and having fun doing it. There was only one **Ken Barker**. I miss him and will remember him always with great fondness.

**Prospecting Tip**

By Jeff Mosteller

Over the years we have learned it's better to be collecting concentrates over the Summer and not worrying to much about recovery and cleanup until Winter arrives.

This Winter when you are cleaning out your concentrates, dry out your black sand completely. After it's dry place a magnet into a plastic bag and pull all the magnetite from your tub; you should be left with mostly hematite which you should pan out with a smooth bottom-finish pan and you will be amazed at how much fine gold is left that hangs up on wet hematite. Microscopically gold is covered with tiny hooks and barbs that help it cling onto black sand.



(Continued from VP's Corner, page 1)

would do. I did my best to wear her out over the summer.

I also want to thank **Allen Mershon** for donating the concentrates to our volunteers on the demos; it pays to get involved in these things.

Last year was a lot of fun for both of us and next year should be great. Greetings to the new board members, **Jim Jarnutowski, Paul Nagy, and Matt Schreiner**. Welcome aboard.

We have a lot of new stuff we are going to add to the demos next year including the ability to do digital slide shows and short video segments for the public to look at within the history / education display. I will start the long process of setting up the new demo calendars in late January so keep reading those newsletters; they're full of useful information. I'll keep it short; it's cold in the OI' computer cube tonight.

See everybody at the January meeting.

It's going to be a great year!

The Girl and the Ring

By Don Ditzler



On February 28, 2004, heading back to my car after searching for coins with my metal detector in a schoolyard knee-deep in kids, a blonde girl, no more than eight years old, came up to me and asked if I would look for her lost ring in their backyard. I told her it was time for me to go home. but as we reached my car, she earnestly said, "It has four diamonds (chips) in it," then added, "My grandma gave it to me when I was a small girl." I weakened (how could I not?) and offered to spend a few minutes looking. "Oh, thank you mister!" a she said, "I know right where it is!"

We went through her back gate. I asked if her parents were home and she said her dad was, so I sent her inside to let him know what I was doing in his back yard with his daughter (can't be too careful!).

She laid a Hula Hoop on the ground and said the ring would be in that area. All I found was trash. Then she said she had been by a nearby tree and had walked a circular path to the gate during which she had taken off her ring to put in her pocket but it had fallen in the snow.

I told her I would look as far as the gate and then I had to go home. Then, in almost the spot where the hoop was lying, I found the ring about two inches below the surface. I handed it to her and, with tears in her eyes, she hugged me and in a jubilant voice loudly exclaimed, "God bless you mister!" You can't get more satisfaction

January Birthdays

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

Bill Carr, Ian Duncanson, Joe Fortunato, Jayne Harris, Danielle Vendegnia, Roger Jones, Mary Kathrens, Kim Kesner, Rose Ann Knight, Fred Lorenz, Diane McCarroll, Jeff Mosteller, Doris Sauerland, Marion Varner.

Born this month but you're name isn't here? Contact the new Membership Coordinator!

Welcome New Members & Guests

by Dick Oakes, Membership Coordinator

Welcome to new member **Marlin Wiedeman**.

Welcome also to guests **Ed SeEVERS** and **Ryan SeEVERS**, who came to our Potluck Party.

than that from finding a lost item. As I began to leave, she ran into the house and returned with a dollar bill as a reward for finding the ring. I told her it was the Lord who showed us where to look and to put the money in the church collection plate as an offering of gratitude.

I doubt she will ever forget finding her ring. I'm sure I won't.

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

MINELAB DETECTOR FOR SALE

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

SPEEDAIRE COMPRESSOR FOR SALE

New Speedaire Compressor, 3PH-5HP, 80-gal tank, upright. Current model price is \$1,788; will sell now for \$950. Contact Rose Ann or Jon Knight, (303) 450-0580 or (303) 252-1759

THREE-WHEEL SCOOTER FOR SALE

Shuttle Personal Transport System, 3-wheel mobility scooter, good condition, \$950. Contact Rose Ann or Jon Knight, (303) 450-0580 or (303) 252-1759

ACTUAL CLASSIFIED ADS

Open house at Body Shapers Toning Salon. Free coffee and donuts. Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel. 2 wire-mesh butchering gloves: 1 5-finger, 1 3-finger, pair: \$15. Bill's Septic Cleaning. "We Haul American Made Products." Georgia Peaches. California grown - 89 cents lb.

KEENE DREDGE FOR SALE

Keene 5-inch triple-sluice dredge w/2 new hoses, 8HP Briggs & Stratton motor, 25-foot air hose w/respirator, upgraded to pump hot water into wet suit, made as a 2-wheel bed trailer w/racks, comes w/current license plates. Included are a wet suit that fits a 6-foot, 140-pound guy, boots, gloves, hat, and brand new face mask. \$1,500 firm. Alan Hamaker, (303) 582-3144

2 FAIRPLAY GOLD MINING CLAIMS FOR SALE

Each is 10 acres on Beaver Creek below Beaver Creek Park. Good access road, mineral rights only (on USFS land), "Golden Bridge" claim #251958. Asking \$1,500 for both. Alan Hamaker, (303) 582-3144

2 CENTRAL CITY GOLD MINING PROPERTIES FOR SALE

"Two Sisters" - 1.57 acres and "Clara Maria" - 1.65 acres, Central City. Property owned, therefore all land, mineral, and water rights included. Power poles 10 ft. away. Alan Hamaker, (303) 582-3144

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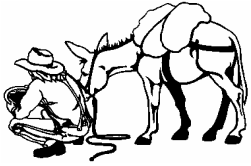
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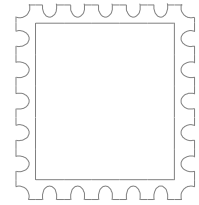
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Whereas the mainstay of the oldtime prospector was a gold deposit--the placer-gold miner with his pick, shovel, and burro (the "beard, burro, and bourbon" tupe) is virtually the picture of the field prospector--this simple way of life now offers almost the least satisfactory variety of prospecting and mining. The current price of gold is not high enough, even the \$38 an ounce put in effect in February 1972. It may, indeed, double or treble in the near future as a result of inflation or a counterattack on deflation, or it may be reduced in the same proportion as a result of the invention of techniques to recover the metal from low-grade ores at a much lower cost.
 ~ Richard M. Pearl, *Handbook For Prospectors*, 1973



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Arvada's Century: Gold

www.ci.arvada.co.us/e.cfm?page_id=711&temp=66

Arvada's story began with Colorado's first gold discovery. On June 22, 1850, a wagon train bound for California crossed the Platte River just north of the confluence with Clear Creek, following Clear Creek west for six miles. Lewis Ralston dipped his gold pan in an unnamed mountain stream. He found almost \$5 in gold in his first pan. John Lowery Brown, who kept a diary of the party's journey from Georgia to California, wrote on that day: "Lay bye. Gold found." In a notation above the entry, he wrote, "We called this Ralston's Creek because a man of that name found gold here." Ralston continued on to California, but returned to 'Ralston's Creek' with the Green Russell party eight years later. Members of this party founded Auraria (later Denver City) in 1858 and touched off the gold rush to the Rockies.

Over the next century and a half, the significance of the discovery was lost. Eventually the entire area became blighted and the State recognized the first gold find as being at the confluence of Little Dry Creek and the South Platte River in 1858 by William Greenberry Russell. But research by Lois Lindstrom, a local [Arvada] historian, proved that in fact Arvada was the site of the first gold discovery. She began her research in 1971 and sought Colorado State designation for Arvada in 1992. That attempt was unsuccessful because Lindstrom could not pin down the exact location of the gold discovery. Later on, she found a 1937 aerial photograph showing a grove of cottonwood trees at the confluence of Ralston and Clear Creeks which had since been removed for construction of a mobile home park. A member of Ralston's party had written about just such a grove. On December 1, 1995, the Colorado Historical Society officially recognized that Colorado's first discovery occurred in present-day Arvada.

Today, land has been set aside for the development of Gold Strike Park at the confluence of Ralston and Clear Creeks celebrating Colorado's first gold discovery

History's Mystery

- 1803 James Purcell, a Kentucky-born adventurer, finds placer gold in Colorado, probably on the South Platte River.
- 1830 Fur trapper reportedly finds gold on Clear Creek at present site of Golden.
- 1841 Bill Williams, a trapper/explorer, returns home to Missouri with gold nuggets from somewhere in the Colorado Rockies.
- 1848 John C. Fremont's exploration party reportedly finds gold near present site of Lake City.
- 1849 George Simpson pans about "25 cents worth of gold" along Cherry Creek within present day Denver city limits.
- 1850 Lewis Ralston discovers gold in present-day Arvada.
- 1995 Colorado Historical Society officially recognizes historian Lois Lindstrom's claim that the first gold discovery in Colorado was in Arvada in 1850.

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