

The Gold Nugget

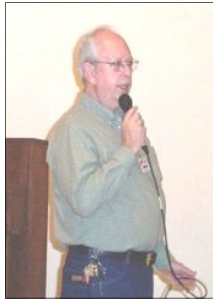
Vol. 12, No. 2

February 2007

The Prez Sez By Gary Hawley, President

Last I heard we have gotten 56" of snow in the Denver area so far this season. Keep in mind that March and April are known to be "wet" months and they are just around the corner. What will be the excuse for raising water prices this time...too much water? At least we should have an excellent spring runoff to help bring down the gold!

Our Christmas potluck was held in January because our December meeting was snowed out. Prospectors don't mind as long there is good food available, and good food we did have. Thanks to all who attended the meeting and brought such a wonderful table full of food. We all had a great time and I haven't heard from anyone who wanted to return their Christmas present.



We had several visitors who became members during the meeting!

Welcome, and thank you for joining the GPR.

One point of business to mention here: Membership dues are due in January of each year. Thanks to all who paid their dues at the meeting.

Congratulations to Ed Finney who received the Annual Ken Barker Award. Ed helps with the panning demos and helps out at the meetings with various things that need to be done. He has been a faithful member for a long time and certainly deserves this recognition.

Jeff Mosteller is in the planning stages for panning demos for 2007. We have reached an all-time-high in requests for this service. Jeff needs several more volunteers to lighten the load on the ones that help him all the time. This service adds to the club's treasury and helps pay the bills. YOUR help is needed.

Keep your eye on this column! I am planning several "President's Day Out" excursions. These may be prospecting or metal detecting outings, or maybe visits to gold related locations. More later!

Notice! Keep this quiet, please! Kathy has been working on a project that she thinks I don't know about. Well, she is correct about that. All I know is she has been asking about gold prices and making notes. Who knows where this may lead?

Some information to pass along from me to the membership: After nearly 17 years working at Cherry Creek Shopping Center, I decided to retire. My last day with the company was December 29, 2006. It would be my pleasure to have all club members help me celebrate this occasion at the February 21 meeting. For sure there will be cake!

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

VP's Corner

By Jeff Mosteller, Vice President

Greetings all,

Last year Donna and I tried something different, we decided to start an Awards program for all of you that have been involved in the Panning Demos. Silently we assigned a point system to the sign up sheets we have for the demos. A total of 300 points were available for the year based on set ups, tear downs and working behind the tubs. The points were calculated and the top 5 people over 90 points were given an Award Plaque, every body that gained over 35 points



were given an Certificate of Appreciation and the rest of the volunteers were given a Letter of Recognition. This next year we will continue with this program as we think you all should be formally recognized for your efforts. Please be sure to use the sign up sheets when you come out to help us with the demos this year as we want to make sure that you get the points you deserve. Last year we put over \$2,000 in the club coffers to help pay the bills on the meeting hall and such.

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 <> ghawley1@juno.com
 Website: <http://www.GoldProspectorsOfTheRockies.com/>

GPOR Website

If you have updates for, comments about, or anything else regarding the club website, you can contact the club webmaster at:

prospector@phantomranch.net

Dick will be happy to review any suggestions or comments you may have.



THE OLD PROSPECTOR Dick Oakes

Back in the eighteen-nineties, when gold mining was the principal industry in Colorado, a group of pioneer giants in industry purchased land in Denver then described as "Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4, East Denver" for \$160,000. In 1890 and 1891 on this property, located at 15th and Arapahoe Streets, they erected the seven-story Mining Exchange Building, for many years the financial center of the Rocky Mountain West. Appropriately, on top of the building they placed a statue of "The Old Prospector" with mining pick in his right hand and a huge chunk of gold ore in his left. Alphonse Pelzer was commissioned to sculpt the old miner. Pelzer used "Colonel" John W. Straughn as his model for the huge 12-foot, nearly 500-pound, copper statue.

Subscribers to the fund for the cost of The Mining Exchange building were such men as John Evans, first governor of Colorado; C.B. Kountze, prominent banker and founder of the present Colorado National Bank; Henry C. Brown, who built the Brown Palace Hotel; and W.N. Byers, owner and publisher of the Rocky Mountain News. Other prominent and successful citizens of those early days who participated in the activities were David H. Moffat, banker and builder of the Moffat Railroad; J.W. Nessmith, president of the Colorado Iron Works; Walter S. Cheesman, capitalist; Dennis Sheedy, president of the Denver Dry Goods Co.; H.A.W. Tabor, mining tycoon; John Harvey of Leadville, and D.R.C. Brown of Aspen. With the cooperation of this group, the Mining Exchange Building was financed, erected, and opened with much publicity at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 18, 1891.



When completed, the Central Savings Bank, later renamed the Central Bank and Trust Co., occupied the corner ground floor, while the Colorado Mining Stock Exchange used the entire second floor. Beautiful paneled walls framed a scene of feverish activity as the exchange handled sales for clients and speculators, both locally and throughout the United States. Many important individuals and corporations and other enterprises had offices in the building, which also was the home of the *Mining Record*, one of the oldest mining weeklies in the United States.

The Old Prospector surveyed the surrounding area from his lofty perch until 1962-63, when the building was razed. The statue was preserved, however, and can still be seen on the south side of 15th Street between Arapahoe and Curtis Streets. Even from street level, the old man still salutes the thousands of gold seekers who, beginning in 1859, rushed to the Rockies to seek their fortunes in the pursuit of that beautiful but elusive metal, gold.

The slate plaque at the base of the statue reads:

THE OLD PROSPECTOR

In 1891, this 12' high, 490 lb. hand-made copper statue was erected on the top of the seven-story Colorado gold Mining Stock Exchange building, on this site until 1962. The sculptor, Alphonse Pelzer, modeled this statue after flamboyant and colorful "Colonel" John William Straughn, a civil war veteran, prospector and wheelwright who lived from 1842-1902.

This statue symbolizes industry, patience and enterprise.

Photo Credits:

The Old Prospector: Dick Oakes

The Mining Exchange Building: From a post card of the period



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies

Board meeting of January 17, 2007

Roll call. Those in attendance: Gary Hawley, Allen Mershon, Mike Barker, Jeff Mosteller, Joe Johnston, Cindy Douthard, Donna Mosteller, Kathy Hawley, Joe Shubert, Paul Nagy, Terry Weatherly, Sue Lemieux

Quorum present? Yes.

Call to order. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Gary Hawley.

Reading and approval of minutes. Reading of November 15, 2006, minutes, by Gary Hawley.

Corrections: None.

Approved as read/corrected? Yes.

Treasurer's Report. No new report because no meeting was held in December.

Correspondence. Newsletters and membership renewals.

Committee Reports: Website chair reports over 60,000 hits since the website was set up.

Unfinished Business: Continued to the February meeting.

New Business: All new business tabled until the February meeting.

Planned Outings: To be discussed at the February meeting.

Announcements: Next board meeting February 21, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. Next general meeting February 21, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.

Tonight's general meeting program: Christmas pot luck dinner.

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Question of the Month

The first significant gold discovered in the Rocky mountain region occurred in July 1858. How much gold was found and what was the location.

Later

Larry

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From the Ledger

of Kathy Hawley, Treasurer

As we start the new year, I thought it would be nice to have another special nugget drawing. We will begin selling tickets at the February meeting. We will sell tickets until the nugget is paid for and then we will have the drawing.

We will give away a total of **12.7 grams of gold** at the February meeting. 4 nuggets will be **1 gram or over**, with the largest being **3.4 grams**.

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

Newsletter Update

- Advertisements will return next month, Please update yours.
- All articles are due by the fourth of each month.
- **I need more articles from members.** I have one in reserve for next month from Gary. Dick Oakes did a great one this month.
- I need some help with the newsletter, hopefully with the intent of the helper taking over. I have started a second job, so I have less time. Thanks, Rick Goldhunter@ricksthngs.com

The list for the 2006 Demonstrations Awards is as follows:

Award

Rob Deshambault, Ed Finney, Chuck & Sharon Cown
Sue Lemieux, Leroy Lamgo

Certificates

Don Tiglas, Maryann McCrear, Aaron Ingalls, Andy Doll, Wayne & Diane McCarroll, Larry & Shirley Wielnau, Hank Innerfeld, Mary Katherns

Letters

Allen Mershon, Marlin Wiedeman, Fritz Meyer, Paul Nagy, Frank&Barb Conte, Joe Johnston, Cindy Douthard, Matt Schreiner, George&Peggy Stumph
Joe Drennan, Terry Weatherly, Con Ogdon, Lesley Schomer, Gale Herbertson, Dale Herbertson

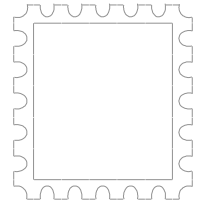
Treasure Hunt 2007

I haven't taken the time to write many articles for the GPR Newsletter in the past. The majority of the "Old Timers" in the club know me as Jim. I was GPR Club President for 3 years and Vice President for 2 years while Rick Miska was then our President. We had great fun then and the club continues to exist thanks to President Gary Hawley and the Board Members who are so willing to share their time to the club.

I have read many many articles about Lost Treasure in the past and now knowing I'm not getting any younger in my silver years as they sometimes say..... I've finally made up my mind to organize an actual search for Lost Treasure. This is a story from a book of Lost Treasures in Colorado. (Colorado Treasure Tales) written by W.C. Jameson page 109. Tells the story of a Lost Army Payroll..... a wooden chest with \$30,000.00 in Gold coin being transported by U.S. Army Cavalry to Ft. Garland, Colorado (located approx. 50 miles west of Walsenburg) the wagon carrying the gold was attacked by outlaws close to Ft. Garland. The chest of Gold was dumped into Trinchera Creek to avoid being taken by the outlaws and remains there today. It has never been recovered. The discovery of Gold coins along the riverbank have been infrequent the last coin was found in 1975 by a Fisherman. We might get to go fishing down on that creek and bring along our metal detectors just in case we decide to try our luck at both. I have approximately 8 people lined up for the trip at this writing. I'm sure for those not present at the January meeting of which I announced the trip upon reading this article will be interested in contacting me for further info. I'll be doing research until the weather permits us to go down and scout out the river and see where the old Fort stands in relation to the river. We will have to determine who owns the property first and then seek permission. If it's permissible to raft the river? We may also attempt that and in doing so can explore the bends in the river where the supposed "fishing hole" is that the army paymaster dumped the chest of gold into the river. Yes, this is a long shot..... Yes, we may be chasing a rainbow. Only I feel I've done my share of reading now it's time to figure out where that rainbow ends. As the months progress into spring I'll have more info on the initial trip down to Ft. Garland. For those wishing to contact me via email? Here is my phone and email address. Please feel free to call after 4 in the afternoon. Email at your convenience. Email (JDavis2928@Yahoo.com) Home Phone (303-757-6552)



The Gold Nugget
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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

