

# THE GOLD NUGGET

February 2017

## The Prez Sez by Jim Long



This Holy cow, it has been cold lately....!! For those of you who have been getting out to the Creek, you know what I am talking about. Though the snow level and ice here in town isn't too bad, the mountains are getting hammered and there are 8 and 10 foot of snow in Summit County and every river drainage in the state is showing a snow pack that is some 140 % of average. That bodes well for the reservoirs but also means that we can expect a high runoff for a longer period this coming spring.

For those of you who have worked Clear Creek regularly, you are well aware that the water is considerable warmer when it comes out of the Coors Plant. That means that it isn't all that bad when you are working around the Youngfield access. But by the time you get another mile downstream from there, the water temperature drops considerably. And down by the confluence with the South Platte River, it will flat freeze your fingers in a hurry. So it all depends on where you want to work and how long you want to work at it as to where you are apt to spend most of your time. And then the size of the gold might drive your desire a little too. The gold tends to be less in number of colors but is a little larger in size up near Youngfield while you can be amazed at the number of overall colors downstream but the gold tends to be smaller. Personally, I live a lot closer to the downstream portion of the stream and I don't mind the colder water all that much and I am just fine with the size of the gold that I get. It is just a matter of properly preparing when you go out. And that is true no matter the season or the location. It is all relevant to what you want and what you are willing to do.

One of the reasons that I like working Clear Creek so much is that it is basically pretty simple work compared to a lot of other places. Small scale mining can become big scale mining in a hurry if you are not careful. Things like having to move big boulders. If you have ever done this in places like up in the upper Arkansas river or maybe Cache Creek, you know how labor extensive it can be. I have tried to move boulders of granite or hematite that are no larger than 24" by 18" that can weigh in at 5 or 600 pounds. Now understand, I am not getting any younger. That kind of labor is fast getting beyond me. A shovel is not enough. Even a pry bar isn't enough sometimes and by the time you start hauling in tackle and a winch and cables and ropes, the job is no longer small scale at all. Don't get me wrong here. I have done all that heavy stuff. When I look back on some of the escapades and ventures that I have been a part of in the old days, I think back to the gold that we got and think to myself "Well gee, that was kind of much ado for the result"!! Of course, when you are younger and strong as a bull, that kind of work doesn't really strike a chord of concern. And I think that when you have to call in a backhoe or front-end loader, you have moved beyond small scale as well. If I have to move a boulder in Clear Creek, for the most part, I can probably pick it up with both hands. I am over 70 years of age now so small scale fits me very nicely, thank you very much. I haven't used a pry bar or ropes and such for years now.

I find that I can dig and screen out all the material I really need to work by using no more than a shovel and a few buckets. By running that material through a sluice box right on site, I don't have to haul buckets of material for long distances, and those buckets will weigh in at about 40 pounds. For those of you who work up near Blackhawk with us, you certainly know what it is like to haul 40 pound buckets for about 100 yards. Digging, screening and hauling about 12 of those buckets will leave your butt dragging, and I don't care how old you are. The younger folks do better at it of course, than do us older guys and gals. Clear Creek is close to where I live and I can even sit on a bucket while I feed the sluice. I never walk more than a hundred yards anymore to get to my favorite location and by using a 2-wheel dolly, all my equipment is very easy to haul. And it all works for me just fine as I can't remember ever not finding gold in Clear Creek, ever!

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!!!



**2017 Dues are Due and Payable....Please Consider Paying  
Your Dues SOON**



### The V.P. Corner by “Joe Fortunato



Just in case you haven't gotten around to doing some winter research related to gold prospecting, here are a few points to ponder!!! The following quotes are from Gold Placers of Colorado, written by Dr. Ben H. Parker, Jr. Volume 69, Number 3, July 1974, Book One. "Placer gold has been produced in 36 counties in Colorado, but 11 districts in eight counties account for more than 90 percent of the state's officially estimated production of \$40,891,480 during 1858-1957. The most productive deposit was that in California Gulch in Lake County which had an estimated production of more than \$5,000,000." "From 1858 to 1867, placer mining accounted for more than half of Colorado's gold production, but it has been much less important since. From 1858 through 1957, only 4.5 percent of the state's gold production was produced from placers." "In 1957 only a few known deposits of workable placer gravels remained in Colorado, and most of these were small. In few areas were there prospects for discovering additional commercial deposits. However, the recent dramatic increase in the price of gold has resulted in a substantial increase in the probable reserves of placer gravel of apparently workable grade and has greatly enhanced the prospects for adding to these reserves. The extent of these reserves being worked will depend on the resolution of ecological problems." That last sentence, written in 1974 (43 years ago), could have been written today!!! What is that old saying... THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME!!! May all your adventures be Golden!!! Questions or comments, call or text me. 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato.

### From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Wayne Schomaker

The February Meeting will feature a 9 nugget drawing that will include a nugget of at least 2.8 grams or more. We gave away the 'Special Nugget' in January and the proud winner was Bobby Manning. We will soon have another fine specimen to auction off.. We will also be giving away numerous door prizes as well. Remember that your chances of winning are better than the Colorado Lottery as there are so many less people participating. Be sure to support your Club and buy lots of tickets. See you all at the Meeting.

### Planned 2017 GPR Meeting Programs:

- Feb 15** Christie Wright, of the Park County Historical Society will speak on Park County history.
- Mar 15** Richard Sweeney, of Pilot Mining, will speak on 'Fire Assay of Gold' and will bring show and tell items for everyone's viewing pleasure.
- Apr 19** Hank Innerfeld, A GPR Club member, will speak on 'Dowsing for Gold'.
- May 17** 'Stump the Panel', An opportunity to ask 'GPR Club Experts', questions related to gold mining.

### Board Meeting Minutes From Jan 2017

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

**Quorum present?** Yes

**Call to Order:** By Pres. Long at 6:07 pm.



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**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** No official Board Meeting from December. Corrections: n/a Approved as read/corrected: n/a.

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

**Correspondence:** 3 phone calls, 6 Emails, 7 mailings.

**Webmaster:** Total Hits 146732 Hits for last 2 month 256.

**Committee Reports:** All Committee assignments will remain the same for 2017.

**Unfinished Business:** Special thanks to Chris Kafka for all she did for Christmas Program.

**New Business:** Discuss Adams County Clear Creek Recreational Planning Survey currently underway.

**Planned Outings for 2017:** Outings planned for 2017 will be sent to all members with the February Newsletter. The first Outing will be March 25, Sat, at 9a and will be the Beginners Panning/Sluicing Class.

**From the Board:** Pres. Long discussed the Christmas Program which was a success with some 92 members attending.

**Announcements:** None at this time.

**Next Board Meeting:** February 15, 2017 at 6:00pm. Next General Meeting February 15, 2017 at 7:00pm.

**Tonight's general meeting program:** We will feature Nancy Johnson, of the Idaho Springs Historical Society, who will speak on the history of Idaho Springs as it relates to the history of gold mining.

**Adjournment:** Meeting stands adjourned at 6:54 pm.

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Where did Crazy Bob Womack make the first discovery of gold in the Cripple Creek mining district??

#### 2017 GPR Board of Directors Members

##### President

James Long

##### Vice President

Joe Fortunato

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Wayne Schomaker

##### 2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2013)

Joe Shubert (2011)

##### 1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

##### Past President

Gary Hawley

## General Meeting Minutes From Jan 2017

1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by Pres. Long with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Long then announced the evening program which was Nancy Johnson, the Executive Director of the Idaho Springs Historical Society with a program on the gold rush history of Idaho Springs. Her presentation was well received and extremely interesting. The Club presenting her with a Commemorative Coin on behalf of the Club.
3. Pres. Long gave the Metals Report with gold at \$1204.00 an ounce, silver at \$17.03, platinum at \$961.00 and palladium at \$740.00.
4. Web hits for last month were 320.
5. Treasurer Wayne Schomaker reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. Also, be sure to buy tickets for the 'Special Nugget' drawing. We will be giving this nugget away tonight. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's 9 nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.8 grams.
6. Dan and Becki McConnell who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 78 members in attendance. There was 1 guest present. The meeting attendance was 79.
7. Pres. Long read the 'Question of the Month', which was "What Leadville, Colorado, Mine turned Horace Tabor into the "Silver King" of Colorado??"
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, 2017. A reminder, gold submissions need to be weighed dry, please.
9. Pres. Long announced the new 'Cache Clue #1' for John Johnson who was unable to attend the meeting.
10. Pres. Long advised that there were lots of stuff in the Club Store for sale. We have bags of sand containing gold for members to buy as well as lots of other stuff, and we have discounted several items. We continue to look for a volunteer to take over the Store. We thank Mike Hurtado for helping out at the Store in the meanwhile.
11. Pres. Long informed the membership:
  - The the next 2017 Outing which will be a Beginners panning /Sluicing Class held on Sat., March 25, at 9am on Clear Creek at I-70 and Youngfield.



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- The 2017 Outing Schedule will be sent out with the February Newsletter.
  - Pres. Long also informed the membership that there are handouts at the front desk podium for members to peruse during the break.
  - Members are reminded to check out the Finds of the Month and vote accordingly as well as answer the Question of the Month during the break.
  - Members were reminded to return items checked out of the Library in a timely manner.
  - Pres. Long then handed out a flyer to each member concerning a Recreational Development Plan for the lower 7 miles of Clear Creek which involves Adams County. There is a survey to be completed and every member is encouraged to participate and send a strong voice forward on behalf of the small mining community.
  - There was nothing further from the floor.
12. Pres. Long announced the break at 8:19 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:36 pm.
13. Pres. Long announced the winners of the ‘Question of the Month’. The answer was “The Matchless Mine...” !! There were 24 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing. Remember, the Homestake Mine was a gold mine but the Matchless was his silver mine.
14. Pres. Long announced the winners for the ‘Finds of the Month’. Those were:
- Best Artifact – Joe Johnston with an old 1929 dated nail that he found.
  - Best Mineral – Joe Johnston with a micaceous schist sample he found near Blackhawk, Co.
  - Best Jewelry – Joe Johnston with a sterling silver animal necklace and bear fetish he found in Denver, Co.
15. Pres. Long concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the GPR, Bert Cutshall, Dick Oakes, and Pres. Long, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets. A reminder that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were Chuck Cown and Wayne Schomaker.
16. Pres. Long reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President’s time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
17. Pres. Long thanked Chris and Joe Kafka and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Any member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Don’t forget the ‘tip jar’ also, which helps to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
18. The February meeting Program will feature speaker Christie Wright of the Park County Historical Society who will present a talk on park County history.. See you all there.
19. 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’!
20. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## **Finds of the Month**

The Jan 2017 winners and categories are as follows:

- Best Artifact – Joe Johnston with an old 1929 dated nail that he found.
- Best Coin –
- Best Mineral – Johnston with a micaceous schist sample he found near Blackhawk, Co.
- Best Jewelry – Joe Johnston with a sterling silver animal necklace and bear fetish he found in Denver, Co
- Largest Raw Gold –.
- Best Bottle –.





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Be sure and bring your treasures and finds in to share with the rest of the Club. We would all like to know what everyone else is finding out there so don't be bashful. Winners each month will have their name published in the Newsletter. There are six (6) categories to choose from when entering. Monthly winners will need to save their finds to bring back to the November 2017 meeting to compete for the Find of the Year 2017. Thanks to all those who also submitted additional finds that were not judged to be winners.

### A Miner's Laugh

An old retired miner was overseeing his herd in a remote pasture in western Colorado when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced toward him out of a cloud of dust. The driver, a young man in a Brioni® suit, Gucci® shoes, RayBan® sunglasses and YSL® tie, leaned out the window and asked the old miner, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?" The old miner looks at the man, who obviously is a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, "Sure, why not?" The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell® notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3® cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop® and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany ...Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot® that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL® database through an ODBC connected Excel® spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry® and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet® printer, turns to the old miner and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves." "Whoa, that's exactly right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves." He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car. Then the old miner says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?" The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?" "Well, you're a Congressman for the U.S. Government", says the old miner. "Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?" "No guessing required." answered the old miner. "You showed up here even though nobody called you, and you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of dollars of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a damn thing about how working people make a living - or about cows, for that matter. This is a herd of burros. Now give me back my dadgummed dog."



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

### Prospecting/Mining Notes: (mostly from the Denver Post, Internet and other wire services)

The news concerning gold mining has been very sketchy during the last 30 days or so. The Presidential Election caused the markets to fluctuate some but not enough to cause any great stir as of yet. Gold rose over 1200/00 an ounce for a short period and the Stock Market went over 20000 to set a record high. There is a lot of uncertainty as Pres. Trump starts his agenda and a lot of the mining community is sitting on pause waiting to see what direction things are going to go. I don't see much changing until the dust settles a little more. Though the economy seems to be strong, that uncertainty is there and only time will tell. We just need to get a good grip and hang on to the present for now.

### Mining Concerns from Around the Country

*(In my attempt to keep our members aware of what is happening involving mining from around the country, I will run this little section each month and see how it goes. I am apt to put a little passion and some direct finger pointing in my reporting, for which I will offer no apology to anyone who may feel offended. I support responsible mining and responsible miners, period. It is what it is, and it is my opinion, and that is that, like it or not .jj)*

Mining Law of 1873 and that there would be repercussions if they didn't come to the 'Table of Common Sense'. Walt had been notified that all his property was going to be auctioned off. But then late last year, and without admitting any wrongdoing, of course, Walt's equipment was suddenly returned to him. No apology, no admittance of wrongdoing, no offer to repair the damage done, nothing. I am certain that this issue is not over and I hope that Walt and his 'supporters and representatives' seek a little justice here. If I hear more, I will certainly pass it on...JJ



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**Colorado** – Gold Rush TV Show may be in Big Trouble: The TV series ‘Gold Rush’ may be in big trouble with the State of Colorado Mining Regulators for their current series production which is being filmed near the headwaters of the South Platte River in South Park near the small town of Fairplay. The scrutiny involves allegedly mining without a permit. The Colorado Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining Reclamation and Safety records show that High Speed Mining razed some 2.5 acres of forest adjacent to an 8 acre gravel pit site which is the focus for the upcoming season of the series Gold Rush. An Iowa based critic of the show, Robin Rindsig, says he filed the complaint because he detests the show saying that it is mostly scripted and that he and his father mined for years and the show does not accurately depict responsible mining and is not honest in its portrayal of modern and responsible mining. The mining regulators could fine the Gold Rush folks up to \$1000.00 per day if they are found to be in violation. It seems that the permits and plan of operation and reclamation were appropriately filed but that the miners went out of the permitted area and that is the problem. However, the area involved has been zoned by Park County and slated for a future housing development which could make the whole situation moot. But for now, there is some sweating and fast talking going on. *(This will be an interesting development and may be fun to watch play out. I have never been a fan of this show since the very first season for the same reasons that Mr. Rindsig has stated, and a few more of my own .....jj)*

**Last Dollar Mine in Breckenridge:** Some 3 years back, it seems that without warning, the USFS decided to raid the Last Dollar Mine just west of Breckenridge, Colorado. Many of you may not have heard of either the mine, its owner Walt Blanc, or the incident itself. But near as I have been able to piece together, here is what happened. For reasons unknown, the USFS raided Walt’s property without warning and ordered him off his claim which was on USFS land, but a claim which he had dutifully kept up with all assessment fees, filing fees, appropriate bonds, and filed all his necessary Plans of Operations and Plans of Reclamation, and everything else that he was required to do under law. They then seized all of his mining property, tools and equipment and then destroyed the bridge which crossed the Little French Creek just south of Mt. Guyot, which provided access to Walt’s claim. Walt never got anything cleared up until late 2016. But by this time, Walt had enlisted the services of an attorney who was knowledgeable in mining issues and finally, contacted the Public Lands for the People (PLP) folks, both entities having informed the USFS of the existing Mining Law of 1873 and that there would be repercussions if they didn’t come to the ‘Table of Common Sense’. Walt had been notified that all his property was going to be auctioned off. But then late last year, and without admitting any wrongdoing, of course, Walt’s equipment was suddenly returned to him. No apology, no admittance of wrongdoing, no offer to repair the damage done, nothing. I am certain that this issue is not over and I hope that Walt and his ‘supporters and representatives’ seek a little justice here. If I hear more, I will certainly pass it on...JJ

**EPA** – This statement issued Jan. 24, 2017: The Trump administration has instituted a media blackout at the Environmental Protection Agency and barred staff from awarding any new contracts or grants. Emails sent to EPA staff since President Donald Trump's inauguration on Friday and reviewed by The Associated Press detailed the specific prohibitions banning press releases, blog updates or posts to the agency's social media accounts. The Trump administration has also ordered a "temporary suspension" of all new business activities at the department, including issuing task orders or work assignments to EPA contractors. The orders are expected to have a significant and immediate impact on EPA activities nationwide. The EPA did not respond to phone calls and emails requesting comment Monday or Tuesday.

**Information from the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum:** The Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, the Denver Region Exploration Geologists’ Society (DREGS), and the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, invite paper submissions for oral or poster presentations for the “Gold and Silver Deposits in Colorado” Symposium 2017. The symposium will be held on the Colorado School of Mines campus in Berthoud Hall, Golden, Colorado, and will include two full days of talks (July 22 & 23) and two days of field trips (July 21 & 24). The Symposium’s objectives include:

- To focus on important gold and silver deposits in Colorado using a multi-disciplinary approach emphasizing geoscientific, economic, environmental, historical, and social perspectives. (The primary geographic focus will be on the northern half of the Colorado Mineral Belt (CMB), from Boulder County southwest to Leadville and Aspen, including Cripple Creek. See Appendix 2 for coverage)
- To bring together a diversified audience ranging from geoscience professionals, academics, mineral collectors and prospectors, historians, and laymen interested in precious metal and associated mineral occurrences, their exploration and development, and the impact of associated activities on Colorado.



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- To inspire scientific curiosity, encourage appreciation of the Earth and responsibility for its mineral and historic mining treasures, and to promote the exchange of current scientific thought and technology as it applies to exploration and ore deposits.

We invite oral presentations for 30 minute time slots. Posters shall adhere to the Geological Society of America standards. Normal format requirements for abstract submissions. Proposed presentations and poster titles, with preliminary one-page abstracts must be submitted for consideration via e-mail to Pete Modreski ([pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov)) by March 15, 2017. Authors should indicate if oral or poster presentation is preferred. Questions concerning submittals can be sent to Pete Modreski. Final or extended abstracts must be submitted via e-mail to the Pete Modreski ([pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov)) by May 15, 2017.

For further information, please follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/LikeCSMGeoMuseum/photos/pcb.1822491981371516/1822491024704945/?type=3&theater>

Bruce Geller,

Director

**This Land is Our Land** This land is your land, this land is my land, From the California to the New York Island. From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters, this land was made for you and me. As I went walking, that ribbon of highway, I saw below me the golden valley, this land was made for you and me. I roamed and rambled, and followed my footsteps, to the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts. All around me, a voice was calling; this land was made for you and me. When the sun came shining, then I was strolling, in wheat fields waving and dust clouds rolling. The voice was chanting, as the fog was lifting. This land was made for you and me!!! This land WAS NOT MADE FOR THE EPA, BLM or the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. This land is OUR LAND, it is not your land from California to the New Your Cesspool. You have taken our lands from WE THE PEOPLE, and we are coming to take them back!!! (Thank you Ben Crain, President, Western Slope Chapter of the GPAA, for sharing this sentiment .jj)

*This article is reproduced, in part, from the ICMJ and has to do with an issue that plagues prospective buyers of mining claims in today's market, giving credence to the old adage.... 'let the buyer beware....jj)*

### **Gold Claim For Sale....Has good Values**

**“Mature claim (est. 1898) with significant ore on ground dating prior to 1930 and over 2000 feet of total tunnel on 3 different levels accessible only by shaft. Estimates of production on surrounding mines (1/2 to 7 ounces per ton), since claim has not been in operation since the Depression Era. Contact .....**”

You have all seen these type ads in most of the mining and treasure related publications. There are lots of them. And there are folks out there that snap them up, literally sight unseen, only to find out later that it was pretty much a scam. The question was proposed to the ‘Ask the Experts’ Panel at the ICMJ and here is what Chris Ralph and the experts had to say about it. These type of ads are everywhere, so let’s take a look at this one. There seems to be a current explosion of these ads today and they are aimed at the guys and gals who are looking to get rich quick. That rarely, if ever, happens in reality. Now don’t misunderstand, it is completely legitimate to stake a claim with the idea that you can sell or lease it to someone else. No problem there. The problem is misleading your buyer with ‘facts’ that just aren’t exactly right. Leading a buyer into believing there is valuable ore on the claim when there is not is fraud. First off, there is really no such thing as a ‘mature’ claim. That means nothing. The original discovery was made in 1898, and that means nothing either. The seller talks about ‘significant ore on the ground’ but what he is actually talking about are the old mine dumps. There may not be a speck of ore in them. He has information on the rich ore of nearby claims, but all that matters is if there are recoverable values on that claim, not on one that may be a mile or two away. Some buyers are told that they can have their ore processed by a custom mill. In the 1930’s, custom mills were common and there were dozens around Nevada alone. By the 1970’s there were only a couple. ICMJ knows of none currently operating in Nevada or California. And processing isn’t free, in fact, it is rather expensive. The ore itself is just rock and has little value until the metals are extracted. If you want to set up your own mill, you probably want to rethink that. A mill would cost hundreds of



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thousands of dollars to establish, depending on what type of processing you need to use on your ore and what throughput capacity you need. There is no one 'catch all' processing method. It depends on your ore and what you need for it. Also, consider that if any chemicals are required, the permit process will be cumbersome and lengthy for sure. If you elect to send it out to a mill, when you find one, you will need to consider the costs of transportation, the costs of extraction, and the costs of returning the extracted product in the form you want it. The overall costs of extraction and recovery may well exceed the value of the end product. In business terms, that is a loser. Finally, the old time miners were not stupid. They did not work hard in the mine digging and then leave rich ore lying around on the ground and just walk away. Usually, what they left behind was very low grade ore, not rich enough to pay to process it then or now. Usually, what they dumped on the ground was waste with little or no value. There are a few exceptions but not very many for the most part. Sometimes the buyer is told that he/she can get an expert to work on shares. This was asked of the 'Expert Panel'. Their answer was good luck with that. Why would an expert drop what he is doing to help you find gold on an iffy claim that he would be expected to work long and hard hours on the hope of maybe finding something down the road? Not very likely. Buyers are told that they can camp on the property but the USFS and BLM let you camp on the land anyway, but there are time restrictions that usually apply. They are told that they may be able to patent their claim and get title, but there is a moratorium on patent applications that has been in place since the 1990's and it is unlikely to be removed. There are tens of thousands of little prospect holes and small mines scattered throughout the West, so there are lots of workings for these sellers to stake. Some pick up claims that no one else is interested in and sell them to would-be prospectors who have no idea what it takes to mine material and make a profit. Most of these claims have 'problems' which is why no one is currently working them. Some 'problems' may be that the original prospector never did find ore of sufficient value. In some, the prospectors may have left after they got all the ore. In some, there may be environmental issues. Some claims are actually owned by others or are on land with a designation that prevents holding a claim... Some sellers are just selling a dream rather than a profitable opportunity... But the experienced miner who have been doing this for a while no better and are less dreamy eyed and far more practical.

There are some iron-clad rules about buying mining claims that you should be aware of and follow:

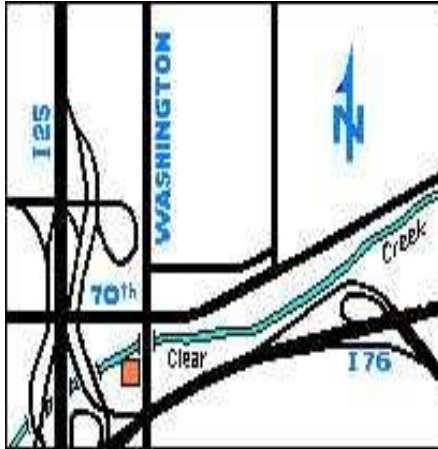
- Rule # 1. Take everything the seller says with a giant grain of salt. They will tell you anything you want to hear.
- Rule # 2. Never buy a claim unless you have the skills to go out and sample and evaluate it yourself. Until you have those skills, don't buy a claim.
- Rule # 3. Never buy a claim until you have the knowledge needed to stake your own claim independently and maintain it with the government in good standing.
- Rule # 4. Never buy a claim without inspecting it on site and in person, and performing a full property evaluation for yourself as noted in Rule # 2 above. If you don't have this knowledge and the necessary skills, you need to learn them or hire someone who does, and if you can't afford those fees, then don't buy a claim.

Buying a claim is a business decision and should be made like one, and not made as a day dream to seek and hope for something good, like that 'pot of gold at the end of the rainbow'!!!





# TYMKOVICH MEATS



Established 1952  
6911 N.  
Washington St,  
Denver, CO 80229  
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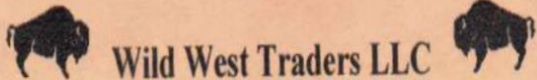


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**Contact the GPR President**  
*(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)*



**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Mar 2017**

(**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 Ash Wednesday	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Day Light Savings Begins	13	14	15 GPR Club Meeting	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18 WMMI Family Exploration Day - Science
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Beginners Panning & Sluicing Class
26	27	28	29	30	31	