

2018 DUES ARE DUE NOW

The Prez Sez by Jim Long



It has been cold the last few weeks around here. But there are a lot more people than you would think that are getting out and into the water regardless of the weather and cold, and they are getting some pretty good gold still.

Most of these folk are working Clear Creek and the South Platte River. There are numerous locations that are publicly accessible and require only that you get out and look for them. So much of diligent prospecting is a matter of getting out and looking. Proper research lets you know what stretches of gold bearing streams and rivers are public and which are not. Once you find a likely place you want to check out, it is a mere matter of getting out there to physically look it over and determine how to access it safely. Having done your research, you should by then have an idea of what type of equipment you will be able to legally operate in the area. Then it is a matter of test panning to see if there is in fact, accessible gold. The rest is up to you. Now, while I realize that that sounds like it is a pretty simple process, and it is, kind of. While many of us who have done this for a while really don't think about the over-all process very much, newcomers can find the process somewhat daunting, to say the least. Everybody has that deep down dream of hitting the 'motherlode' or finding that 'multiple ounce pocket', or hitting a 'paystreak' that will take your breath away. But in reality, it just very rarely ever happens, especially in this day and age. Now don't get me wrong, it does in fact happen from time to time. But it usually happens to the type of guys who spend nearly all their waking moments out on the hunt. They are 'prospectors' in the true sense of the word. It is not just a 'hobby' or a way to just get a little extra exercise out in God's country for them. Many of them make a living at prospecting and while not 'rich', they do well enough at it that they don't have to have a 9-5 job anymore. And I know a few people who are in that category.

I have found it fascinating over the years to listen to some of those guys and their stories of the highs and lows that they experience in the 'search'. A few of you know what I am talking about. You meet somebody who looks worn down and used up and looks like he hasn't eaten regularly in months or had a new pair of shoes or jeans in years, so you buy him a cup of coffee and the next thing you know, you sit there in shock as they guy tells stories of his quest for gold and how he struck it rich pretty well. He now mines gold for a living and as you listen to him talk, you think this guy probably dropped out of school in the eighth grade only to discover that he has a PHD in Engineering from a nationally acclaimed university. After losing track of time, he finally thanks you for the cup of coffee and the nine refills on it, and he walks out of sight but is indelibly imprinted on your brain forever more. Yet, some of the stuff he was talking about also made quite an impression and you learned things about the 'search' that you had never considered before.

This has actually happened to me on more than one occasion. Though the circumstances were not necessarily the same as described above, there was enough similarity to be the kinds of chance meetings which contributed to my skill and knowledge of general prospecting. I wish that I had had the opportunity to eventually develop some kind of relationship with any one of those three men, but alas, it was not meant to be for a variety of reasons that were beyond my control. The first man I met introduced himself to me as 'Dan' and I spent about six magical hours with him as he taught me some tricks of the trade that nobody else had ever shown me. He turned on that 'lightbulb' in my head and then he walked away and I never saw him again. The second man was much as I described earlier. I took him for a bum only to learn that he in fact had a PHD in mining engineering. The man was at one time, a self-made millionaire who had found his 'motherlode' and eventually sold it all off to just live the way he wanted to which was 'simply'. He knew more about prospecting than I will ever know or hope to know. Today, all that knowledge is lost as he is in an assisted care facility suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia and has no idea who he is anymore, much less who he was. I have known two other men who were similar to this last man in some ways and in some ways remarkably different. Yet, each in his own way was nothing less than a treasure trove of mining knowledge and information. The problem was getting them to turn that information loose. It was a rare moment when they did and they didn't very often. They both lived far away and were not easily accessible to very many people. One has passed and the other is very reclusive these days and, I fear, is going to wind up in a home as well. But I feel fortunate to have had the few talks I have had with these remarkable people. I only wish I had had more time and more opportunity. But then, life itself is but a mere fleeting thing!



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Anyway, that is the view from here and I wish you all Good Luck in your endeavors, no matter what they may be...! And until we meet again, keep your sunny sides up and may the bottoms of your pans turn bright with that treasured 'Yaller Gold'.

You may contact me at 303-452-6087 or at jnslong945@msn.com. Happy and safe prospecting to all.!!!

The V.P. Corner by "Joe Fortunato"



It is the 28th of February. We have added nearly three hours of sun to our days since late December. It is still early but the weather is starting to favor us prospectors again. Before you know it, we will be having more good days than bad days. If you are anything like me, you probably already have some plans in mind for those good days!! Planning is an important part of what makes us, as prospectors, successful in our quest for gold. I believe there is one more element that is crucial to any prospecting plan, that element is research. It is time consuming and can seem just too tedious and difficult to even want to do. I kind of felt that way myself, when I first got into prospecting and metal detecting. I really just wanted to get my gear together and head out to find some gold. Enthusiasm is a powerful tool, and is (in my opinion), the foundation of any successful prospector or detectorist. But enthusiasm will only take you so far. When you arrive at your spot and come up empty after hours of hard work, it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain a positive attitude. That is why it is important to put in the time to research any area that you are planning to work. I am pretty darn sure that I have said this before, but it is true, and can't be over stated.... Knowledge equals success. The more you know about the ground that you choose to work, the better your chances are for finding gold. I have actually reached the point where I enjoy reading and researching areas that I am interested in. I put in many hours of research for every hour that I spend prospecting or detecting. I have quite a collection of magazines, books, and videos. I am always looking to add to my collection. Any time I hear of some new information that is available about prospecting or detecting, I always check it out. I am hoping that Kevin Singel gets his new book published before the end of this year, it just might be on my Christmas List in December!! Oh, and don't forget the internet. There is tons of good information on every aspect of prospecting and metal detecting. I hope that your 2018 season is rewarding. MAY ALL YOUR ADVENTURES BE GOLDEN !!! Questions or comments? Call or text me 303-263-7204 Joe Fortunato

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Roger Schlenger



The **March Meeting** will feature a drawing for nine (9) gold nuggets of which the largest will be a 2.8 gram nugget. We will soon have another 'Special Nugget' for give away, so stay tuned to see how big and from where. Be sure to support your Club by buying as many nugget drawing and raffle tickets as you can afford. Remember, your odds of winning a nugget here are far better than your chances of winning the lottery.

Planned 2018 GPR Meeting Programs:

- March 21** Gold Trails video, episodes 9 and 10
- April 18** Gold Trails video, episodes 11 and 12
- May 16** Gold Trails video, episodes 13 and 14

Board Meeting Minutes From Feb 2018

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

Quorum Present: Yes.

Call to Order by: Pres. Long at 6:07pm.

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

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

Correspondence: 2 phone calls, 12 e-mails, 11 mailings.



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Webmaster: Total Hits 150586 Hits for last 2 month 259.

Committee Reports:

- 2018 memberships to WMMI, PLP and CSMGM have been paid.
- The PO Box has been paid for 2018.
- Will check into changing banks current one is charging too much in fees.
- Will seek volunteer to assist in leading a few of the Prospecting Outings.
- Pres. Long working on the 2018 updates to the BoD Notebook.

Unfinished Business: BM J. Johnson advised that Coors CU would have no problem with Opening a new account. Pres. Long to follow up.

New Business:

- Gold Unlimited will be doing a panning demo at Arapaho. Bar for school kids and we will assist them.
- Patty LaCombe wants to sell Rick's 49er Membership if anyone interested contact me.

Planned Outings for 2018: Beginners panning/sluicing Class set for April 7 at Arapaho Bar.

From the Board:

- Pres. Long discussed 2018 Outing Schedule issues.
- BM Bobby M. advised of the Gem/mineral Show in April to be held in Aurora.
- BM J. Shubert was ill and could not attend.
- BM A. Doll advised that the Club website domain was due and would be about 160.00 coming soon

Additional Announcements: Next Board Meeting: March 21 at 6:00 pm, Next General Meeting: March 21 at 7:00 pm.

Tonight's general meeting program: We will hear a presentation from member Kevin Singel on "Finding Gold in Southwestern Colorado."

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:48 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

On ??? date ???, gold broke through the **\$1,000 per ounce** barrier for the first time **ever**. Although it retreated to about \$995 for the day.

2018 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

James Long

Vice President

Joe Fortunato

Secretary/Treasurer

Roger Schlenger

2 Year Board Members

Joe Johnston (2016)

Joe Shubert (2015)

1 Year Board Members

Chris Kafka

Andy Doll

Brandon Luchtenburg

John Johnson

Bobby Manning

Mike Hurtado

Past President

Gary Hawlev

General Meeting Minutes From Feb 2018

1. Meeting was opened at 7:06 pm by **Pres. Long** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Long** then announced that the evening Program would feature a slide show and presentation by Club member Kevin Singel on "Finding Gold in Southwestern Colorado". The program was well put together and well received by the membership. Good job, Kevin.
3. **Pres. Long** gave the Metals Report: Gold 1324.00, Silver 16.50, Platinum 989.00, and Palladium 1012.00. Rhodium 1690.00.
4. **Web hits** for last month were approx. 259.
5. **Treasurer Roger Schlenger** 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. This is an Alaskan chunk of raw gold weighing in at 13.9 grams and we will be giving it away tonight after the break. Also, be sure to buy tickets for tonight's nine nuggets drawing, the largest being 2.6 grams.
6. **Dan and Becki McConnell** who oversee the Membership Table reported that we had 64 members in attendance. There was 1 guest present. The total meeting attendance was 65.
7. **Pres. Long** read the 'Question of the Month', which was "**Gold melts at 1064.43* centigrade. It can conduct both heat and electricity. It never rusts. Are any of these characteristics FALSE??**"
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 2018. A reminder to all that gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely.



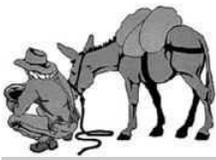
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9. **Sara Saraceno** announced that the 'Cache' had been found by **John Johnson**. Following the discussion of how he found it, John was presented with a beautiful 6.0 gram gold nugget. John will now start the new Cache Hunt.
10. **Pres. Long** advised 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 over-seeing this important aspect of the Club.
11. **Pres. Long** informed the membership that:
 - The Outings Schedule for 2018 is being prepared. The first event will be on April 7 at Arapaho Bar and will be the Beginners panning/sluicing Class at 9am. The rest of 2018 should be done by 1st of April
 - Gold Unlimited needs panners for a school kid's demo being hosted March 6 at Arapaho Bar from 10a to 3p.
 - Pres. Long advised the members that the 2018 dues are now past due.
 - The Club memberships to the WMMI and CSMGM have been renewed.
 - Patty LaCombe wants to sell Rick's 49ers Club membership if anyone is interested.
 - Members were encouraged to support the Store during the Break and to return any materials checked out from the Library as soon as possible, to vote on the Finds of the Month, purchase their gold drawing tickets and submit their answers to the Question of the Month.
12. **Pres. Long** announced the break at 8:21 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, "**No....they are all TRUE**"!! There were 32 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
14. **Pres. Long** announced the winners for the '**Finds of the Month**'. Those were:
 - **Best Coin** – **Joe Johnston** with a 1952 Quarter that he found while metal detecting in a Denver Park.
 - **Best Jewelry** – **Joe Johnston** with a gold ring that he found while metal detecting in a Denver Park.
 - **Best Mineral** – **Jim Long** with a sample of Agate that he found in near Kremmling, Colo.
 - **Best Artifact** – **Brandon Luchtenburg** with a sea shell fossil he found near Branson, Colorado.
 - **Best Bottle** – There was no entry for this category this month.
 - **Most Raw Gold** – **Richard Beasley** with 7.7 grams of gold he found in Clear Creek over 8 trips while prospecting.
 - **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no entry for this category this month.
15. **Pres. Long** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, Kevin Singel, Dick Oakes, GPAA, Don Bray and Pres. Long**, followed by drawings for the 9 gold nuggets.
16. The 13.9 gram 'Special Nugget' ticket was drawn and the winner was **Joyce Tiglas**. Congratulations Joyce!!!
17. Pres. Long also wants to remind that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Chuck Cown** and **Roger Schlenger**.
18. **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.
19. **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.
20. The **March Meeting Program** will be a video by GPAA's Kevin Hoaglund's Gold Trails and will feature episodes from his travels. 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'!
21. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Finds of the Month Feb 2018

The finds of the Month for Jan are as follows:

Best Coin – **Roger Schlenger** with a '1901 Indian Head Penny he found in an old house he was working in in



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Denver, Colo.

Best Coin – Joe Johnston with a 1952-d Quarter he found while metal detecting in a Denver Park.

Best Jewelry – Joe Johnston with a gold Ring he found while metal detecting in a Denver Park.

Best Mineral – Jim Long with a sample of Agate he found near Kremmling, Colo..

Best Artifact – Brandon Luchtenburg with a clam fossil he found near Branson, Colo..

Best Bottle – There was no entry for this category this month.

Most Raw Gold – Richard Beasley with 7.70 grams of gold he found in Clear Creek while prospecting.

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



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 winners.

WMMI Upcoming Events Calendar

- March 13 7pm Untold stories of Cripple Creek”, by Steve Veatch, and “Cripple Creek Gold Ore” by Bob Elick
- March 17 Family Day: Focus on Science
- April 10 7pm WMMI Speakers’ Bureau Lecture, topic to be determined
- April 12 7pm Colorado Gold Mining Exhibit Lecture
- May 8 7pm WMMI Speakers’ Bureau Lecture, topic to be determined

Always check for detailed event info online at www.wmmi.org before going and don't forget your membership badge.

A Miner's Laugh

Two old miners, brothers Oley and Olaf, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble. In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they needed to purchase a bull from the stockyard in a far town so that they can breed their own stock. They only have \$600 left. Upon leaving, Oley tells his brother, 'Now when I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul the critter home.' Oley arrives at the stockyard, inspects the bull, and decides that he wants to buy it. The man tells him that he will sell it for \$599, no less. After paying him, Oley drives to the nearest town to send his brother Olaf a telegram to tell him the news. Oley walks into the telegraph office and says, 'I want to send a telegram to my brother telling him that I've bought a bull for our ranch. I need him to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home.' The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help him, then adds, 'It's just 99 cents a word.' Well, after paying for the bull, the old miner only has \$1 left. He realizes that he will only be able to send his brother just one word. After a few minutes of thinking, he nods and says, 'I want you to send him the word 'comfortable.' The operator shakes his head. 'How is he ever going to know that you want him to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send him just the word 'comfortable?'

So Oley explains, 'My brother Olaf is blonde. The word is big. He'll read it very slowly ...' com-for-da-bull.'

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





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 strictly my opinion, and that is that, like it or not.....jj)

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE:

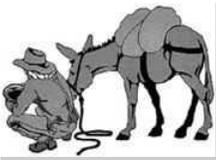
Judge in Bundy/Gold Butte ranch trial takes it one-step further: In this column in last month's issue, we reported on the Cliven Bundy/Gold Butte ranch trial. Chief US District Court Judge Gloria Navarro had declared a mistrial based largely on misconduct and exculpatory evidence that was withheld by BLM law enforcement officers and officials and by Assistant US Attorney Steven Myhre. And now she has taken it one step further. On January 9, Judge Navarro dismissed conspiracy and weapons charges against Bundy, two of his sons, and a co-defendant. Navarro stated, "There has been flagrant misconduct, substantial prejudice, and no lesser remedy is sufficient." The "dismissal with prejudice" ruling means a new trial cannot be pursued. House Resources Committee Chairman Bob Bishop (R-Utah) announced he is seeking a congressional review of the BLM's actions in this case

Critical Minerals a Priority: On December 20, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order regarding critical and strategic minerals and metals. The stated goal is to 'reduce the nation's vulnerability to disruptions in the supply of critical minerals, which constitutes a strategic vulnerability for the security and prosperity of the United States. The US Geological Survey's 2017 Mineral Commodity Summary indicated the US is heavily reliant on outside sources for fifty key minerals. Unfortunately, it can take ten years or more to permit a new mine in the US, while other developed countries like Canada and Australia average two or three years. Within 60 days, the Interior Secretary is instructed to produce a list of critical and strategic metals and minerals in conjunction with the Department of Defense. Within the next 180 days, the Interior Secretary is instructed to issue a report to include: 1) a strategy to reduce the nation's reliance on critical minerals; 2) an assessment of progress toward developing critical minerals recycling and reprocessing technologies, and technological alternatives to critical minerals; 3) options for accessing and developing critical minerals through investment and trade with our allies and partners; 4) a plan to improve the topographic, geologic, and geophysical mapping of the United States and make the resulting data and metadata electronically accessible, to the extent permitted by law and subject to appropriate limitations for purposes of privacy and security, to support private sector mineral exploration of critical minerals, and 5) recommendations to streamline permitting and review processes related to developing leases; enhancing access to critical mineral resources; and increasing discovery, production, and domestic refining of critical minerals. The order also instructs agencies to comply with Executive Order 13771 regarding the reduction of regulations and regulatory costs.

Montana Miners win Again: Several months ago, I reported that Montana residents Terry and Melissa Smith and their son Casey had won their battle to retain water rights in the Montana Water Court trial. The Smiths represented themselves in that case and Judge Russ McElyea ruled in their favor. We are happy to report that the State of Montana has declined to appeal the ruling.

MSHA backs down: In another Montana case, an underground miner was in an ongoing fight after receiving 28 citations from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The miner refused to accept a reduced fine of 20% discount that was offered and was awaiting his day in court. In a sign that changes may be taking place in the current administration, he eventually received word that all the citations are being voided prior to going to trial.

Environmental Groups as Foreign Agents: Pressure is mounting to require some environmental groups to register as "foreign agents". It is no secret that many environmental groups have been against fracking and further development of US supplies on oil and natural gas. But until recently, it was a secret that some of the funding for these efforts was coming from Russia. Klein Ltd. Is a Bermuda based shell company with strong ties to Leonid Reiman, a long-time friend of Vladimir Putin, and the Firebird New Russia Fund. Klein Ltd. Reportedly funneled \$23 million to the Sea Change Foundation, an environmental group that redistributed those funds to the US based "Keep it in the Ground" campaign to fight fracking, pipeline expansion projects, and oil and gas development. The "Keep it in the Ground" campaign includes such recognizable names as the Sierra Club, Earthworks and the Center for Biological Diversity. Representative Lamar Smith (R-Texas), chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and his colleagues have called upon the US Treasury Department to conduct an investigation into the allegations of Russian collusion with US environmental groups.



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PLP and MMAC Update by Scott Harn

PLP legal researcher Clark Pearson assisted miners in Idaho during a conference call with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Director John Tippetts, Barry Burnell, Representative Paul Shepherd, Representative Priscilla Giddings and Senator Carl Crabtree. Many issues related to suction gold dredging regulations were discussed, including the current limit of 15 suction dredges on the South Fork Clearwater River, TMDL reviews that haven't been completed, mixing zones, 500' foot spacing requirements between dredges and much more. Clark provided a summary of current laws, regulations and court rulings, including those that clearly state that there must be an addition of a pollutant before the need for a National Environmental Policy Act permit is triggered. One of the primary issues is funding, State agencies get a large portion of their funding from the federal government and risk losing those funds if they refuse to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates. While the discussion was productive and civil, it appears to the parties involved that additional direction from the EPA in Washington, DC, will be needed to provide direction to the State of Idaho and other states throughout the West. PLP and MMAC were invited to return to Washington, DC, in March of 2018 by a gentleman who was in charge of the Trump transition team for issues related to public lands. I plan to attend as well, and we hope that some of the pressing issues facing Congress will be resolved by the time we arrive. On the two trips I made to DC in 2017, members of Congress and recent appointees at the Department of Interior were supportive of our efforts to correct the regulatory overreach of federal agencies. One of the biggest problems we faced – and we will likely continue to face – is competing priorities. It seems there is always a crisis in Washington. And many of the positions at the agencies had not been filled, and some have still not been filled. The more we dig into the process on getting a bill passed in DC, the more we believe patience and persistence is key to success. The current administration is receptive, and we believe the time is ripe to push for a return to reasonable regulations and to restore mining to a priority for public lands as long as some new crisis doesn't take precedent. I have been in discussions with Public Lands for the People to possible make multiple trips to Washington in 2018, and if the timing seems right, we will do it. And we will keep you posted.

Mining News from around Colorado

2-20-18 **'Gold Rush' pulls up stakes in Park County:** It's been nearly two years since the reality show 'Gold Rush' roared into Park County, descending on an old dredge site near Fairplay with a small army of trucks, excavators and other mining equipment to mine for television gold, and a little bit of the real stuff, too. The show stirred up some trouble along the way, disturbing the peace and quiet of some neighbors and even leading to some gun play from a fed-up local. But it had its defenders, including the town mayor who said that the relationship with the show's miners was 'five star'. But now the crew is packing up and leaving Park County for good. Save South Park, the opposition movement which sprang up against them, isn't going anywhere, galvanized by their struggle against the show to push for more oversight of mining. Save South Park members are still in a legal battle against the county over a re-zoning decision favorable to Gold Rush, which they fear will allow mining to continue after the show is long gone. *(via the Denver Post)*

2-22-18 **A Decimal to decide if Newmont gets the Gold Crown:** Gold geeks will have to wait for Newmont Mining Corp. to disclose just one more decimal place to see if it overtook Barrick Gold Corp. as the world's largest bullion producer. Greenwood Village based Newmont Mining said that it has produced 5.3 million ounces of gold last year, essentially tying the output of Toronto based Barrick Gold, which reported 5.32 million ounces of gold last year. Newmont is pursuing Greenfield Exploration around the world and has added production with nine mine expansions in five years, as well as the purchase of the Cripple Creek & Victor mine in Colorado. *(via the Denver Post who also reported on 2-23-18 that Newmont came in at 5.31 million ounces, just behind Barrick Gold)*

MINING: The Industry That Made Colorado by Linda Wommack

By the spring of 1859, a two prong rush of mining frenzy brought thousands of prospectors to the West. While the miners from the played out California diggings rushed to the rich silver Comstock Lode in Nevada, an even bigger rush headed to the Rocky Mountains with the slogan of *Pikes Peak or Bust!* Although, nowhere near the famous Pikes Peak, gold had been discovered at the confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek, just west of today's downtown Denver. That same year farther west into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, John H. Gregory, ironically a veteran (with some success) of the gold diggings at Sutter's Mill, Calif., discovered a large cache of gold at a place now called Gregory's Gulch. With the intention of finding gold, placer miners, with their pans and sluice boxes, worked nearly side by side

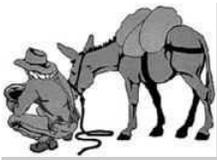


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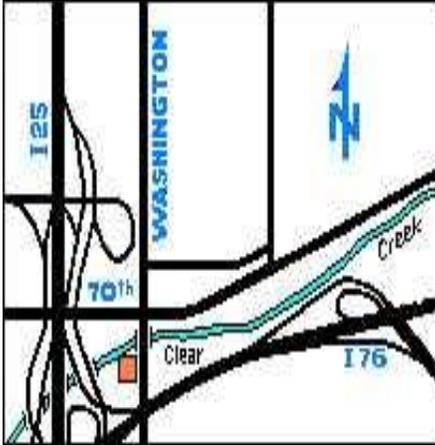
with the hard rock miners and their drills. So much gold was mined from the area that it became known as the *Richest Square Mile On Earth*, and the major factor for the creation of the Colorado Territory in 1861. On either side of the gold strike, in the narrow gulch, the mining towns of Central City and Black Hawk, President U. S. Grant walked on bricks of gold in Central City. Gold had been discovered in small quantities in the high Rockies of California Gulch for years. William Stevens, a miner with considerable experience, had battles with a heavy black soil. Curious, Stevens packed up a few soil samples from the bedrock and headed for the local assayer. Incredibly, the black sludge was discovered to be a carbonate of lead, the parent rock of silver. Stevens' samples assayed out at an incredible two and a half pounds of silver to the ton. In the very year that Colorado became a state, 1876, a new rush to the Rocky Mountains was on. Before the year was out, more than \$100,000 worth of silver came out of the first developed mine in California Gulch. A new mining town was incorporated and would become legendary. They eventually called in Leadville. The mines of the Leadville area would produce more than 10,000 tons of silver, 100 tons of gold, and with technology over the years, nearly 2 million tons of zinc, and more than 1 million tons of lead. It was silver that would make H.A.W. Tabor the richest man in the state, a lieutenant governor of the state, and the focal point of Colorado's most talked about love triangle in history. In 1879, a group of miners prospecting north of Leadville, along Fremont Pass, grappled with a 'strange greasy metal'. This metal would prove to be molybdenum by the Colorado Geological Survey, and would be a great asset during both World Wars, and the industries to come after the wars, as a component to harden steel. During World War II, ore and rock materials were in high demand and Colorado mines were a major supplier. Colorado's Yule Quarry, near the town of Marble on the Western Slope, supplied the marble for several buildings and statues. Although, the quarry is best known for the marble used to construct the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington D.C. Colorado's richest bonanza occurred in a volcanic bowl on the south side of that beacon from the 1859 gold rush, Pikes Peak. On Oct. 20, 1890, Robert Miller "Bob" Womack discovered rich gold float in the waters of Cripple Creek. With the float assaying at \$250.00 a ton, millionaires by the ore load were made with Cripple Creek gold. More than \$500 million worth of gold would be mined from the area. By 1893, the Cripple Creek Mining District forever became known as the Greatest Gold Camp On Earth. It was here that Winfield Sutton discovered his famous Independence Mine, one of the largest gold strikes in history. History was made again when it sold for \$10 million, the largest mine sale at the time. Even the lawyer who brokered the deal, Vernor Z. Reed, pocketed a cool million dollars for his efforts. It would be the last of Colorado's gold boom years. However, mining is still a strong industry in Colorado. An astonishing discovery of diamonds occurred in Colorado in 1975. Yet, the largest diamond mine in Colorado, the Kelsey Lake mine in Larimer County, opened its operation in 1996. Since then, it has produced diamonds as large as 26 carats. Colorado's coal mining industry is also quite strong, ranking 11th in the country out of the 30 coal producing states. The historic Cripple Creek Mining District today holds the only remaining gold mine in the state. The Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company has been a large gold producer since 1976, producing more than 22 million ounces (687.5 tons) of gold to date. The history of Colorado mining can be seen in many gold museums across the state. It is quite fitting that the Western museum of Mining and Industry is located at the base of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs. It was here that the last great Colorado gold rush began in Cripple Creek. Cripple Creek's mining history can be seen first-hand at the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine, which provides tours of the shaft and into the tunnels of the mine. Central City and Black Hawk's mining history can be viewed at the Gilpin County History Museum. Finally, the National Hall of Fame Mining Museum in Leadville provides dioramas of the area and the mine locations.

(The author's article was published in The Colorado Gambler on January 17-30, 2012)

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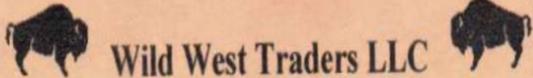


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Coming Announcements and Special Events for Apr 2018

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