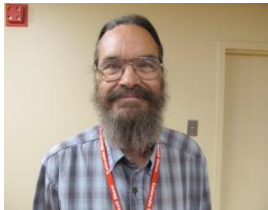


THE GOLD NUGGET

May 2024

The Prez Sez..! by Bobby Manning



I have been very busy this month. Had a celebration of Life for Dan McConnell and there was 6 members that attended. We then also attended one for Bob Ahr's daughter. We did a Cleanup at Gold Strike Park and had 10 members and had 3 Guest that all showed up. We picked up 7 Bags of trash from the Park, but we need to go back and think about doing the river at some time in the future and we will talk to Open Spaces about that. Then we dug for some gold in the creek. Mike set up a sluice and so did Kevin, and the guest and I just ran pay dirt that I had. Then we did some panning in the creek and found three very small pieces so we put them into Mike's dirt. We all had a real good time and it was nice to get out and look for gold! Had an excellent speaker come and talk to the Club at the last meeting. This month's speaker is Dan Carr who will talk about the Moonlight Mint mine. Joe Fortunato had a 4" dredge that I bought and I will make an announcement on how much we will sell it for. We will also have a Keene high banker and a 2" pump for sale too. All the money goes to the club, and I think that I have it sold.



Then in May, we will do the Aurora Water Fest panning demo with the kids. It will be fun and a day to sharpen your panning skills. It will be next month that will give the big NUGGET! Soon, the water should start getting high so be real careful out there if you should go!! Keep your pans in the water and may you fill them with Gold!!

Vice President's Corner! by Kevin Singel



Howdy all! Last month I talked about digging in smaller creeks during spring runoff...since then we haven't seen the creeks rise very much so almost every waterway has continued to be very accessible to prospectors. I hope you have had a chance to take advantage of that to get out digging. Of course, the snow will melt and the rivers will rise so be prepared with back up plans when you head out. All it takes to get Clear Creek to raise from a few inches of water to a few feet is a week of warm weather in the high country or a solid rainstorm up there, which accelerates the melt-off. On the other hand, working downstream of a dam can be a big help. The South Platte River does rise dramatically at times but Chatfield Reservoir protects the city AND its prospectors from a lot of the spring melt. So, get out there, the gold is waiting for you!

For those who participated in the Gold Strike Park cleanup and prospecting outing, THANKS! We can all be proud of the great work the club members did on the cleanup and for helping some new prospectors to learn to pan and sluice. The water was up a little in the creeks at the park, but not much, so we were able to access a lot of interesting spots. For many, this was their first visit to this prospecting site. It can be a tricky place to dig. In the past, I have seen folks spend a few hours prospecting there and come away with everything from multiple large flakes, verging on pickers, to just a tiny pinch of small colors. With access to both Ralston Creek and Clear Creek, there is a lot to explore!

On another note, we had a very well attended meeting in April with lots of members and quite a few new visitors. Since I had personally arranged the speaker (for the first time as VP!), I was very relieved to see a full room. Peyton Jackson's presentation was fascinating as we learned about the Caribou Mining district and the Caribou-Cross commercial-scale, hard rock, gold & silver mine that is getting going up there in the hills of western Boulder County right now! The speaker also leads the Friends of the Colo School of Mines Museum and offered to help us arrange a "behind the scenes" tour of



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 2

the museum, so look for that invitation soon. He also said we may be able to get a tour of the mine so keep an eye out for an announcement about that as well. Fingers crossed!!

Our May meeting will include a speaker as well. Daniel Carr owns the Moonlight Mint, here in metro Denver, which makes collectible coins including with gold and silver. I am looking forward to learning more about that side of the gold world and hope to see you at the meeting or an upcoming outing. Get out there and Find Your Gold!

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by John Johnson



We had a great turnout for the April meeting. We gave away lots of gold nuggets and other door prizes as well. Be sure to buy your gold nugget drawing tickets as well as your 50/50 tickets and tickets for the Special nugget drawing which we are getting close to giving away. If you have any door prizes you would wish to donate to the Club Door Prize coffers, be sure and bring those to me as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the May meeting. See you all there!!

Board Meeting Minutes from Apr 2024

X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr	X	Gordon Smith
X	Kevin Singel	X	Gary Hamilton	X	Roger Schlenger	X	Bill Manning
X	Mike Stevens	X	Erik Von Halle	X	John Johnson	X	Joe Johnston

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order by: Pres Manning at 5:58 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: None Approved as read/corrected: Moved: Moved: M. Stevens; 2nd: R. Schlenger.

Treasurer's Report: Some minor corrections made
Approved: Moved: K. Singel; 2nd: M. Stevens.

Correspondence: phone calls 0 emails 0 mail 2 (PLP & private party asking for legal prospecting sites in CO.)

Webmaster: Total hits ? Hits in last 30 days 362.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business:

- Drop off business card to promoter of show = Bobby
- Veteran's Community Living Center panning demo – Contact has been unresponsive and is now out-of-office until next week
- Zoom meetings discussion. The room we use for board meetings costs more per year than a full Zoom account for up to 100 users. The board has discussed doing this in the past and it was determined at tonight's meeting that all current board members are computer users with internet access, so that will not be an obstacle to moving forward. There is still a concern regarding individual members that may not be able to use Zoom should we ever need to do a virtual meeting with the general membership. The benefits outweigh the negatives and board member Singel put forth a motion that the board form a clear plan to move this direction before November so the software could be purchased and all board members would have a chance to get up-to-speed on it prior to the renewal date on our current meeting room, which is paid in January for an entire year. 2nd: R. Ahr. and was approved unanimously. President Manning will investigate if there is a trial version other than the free (limited) version available to the club to experiment with.

New Business:

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How much does the world's largest gold bar weigh?

2024 GPR Board of

Directors :

President

Bobby Manning

Vice President

Kevin Singel

Secretary/Treasurer

John Johnson

2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2024)

Andy Doll (2024)

Gordon Smith (2024)

1 Year Board Members

Gary Hamilton

Roger Schlenger

Bill Manning

Erik Von Halle

Mike Stevens

Past President

Joe Johnston



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

- G. Smith brought up the need to form a bylaws committee to update and revamp the club's bylaws. All agreed it was something that was overdue.
- A third-party organization (iDNS) sent a "notice" to the club for a service to renew the club's internet provider. This is an unnecessary service plus, the club just paid Go Daddy so this notice will be ignored.
- G. Hamilton asked about the plans for new items for the club store based on feedback from the survey conducted in February. Nothing was planned, but a discussion about possibly offering t-shirts with the club logo on them generated some interest. This idea is to be put in front of the membership tonight to determine interest.

Planned Outings: Joe Dorus (?) owns a private site where Bobby is attempting to set a date for a club outing to collect topaz gemstones. The location is near Lake George and Bobby should have additional information by the next meeting.

Board Members Items of Discussion:

- R. Ahr: Will have a complete, updated member listing by the next meeting as renewals have been going well. He will also check with a person he knows to find if they are still in the silk-screen business & able to do the club's t-shirts.
- G. Smith: Will lead the bylaws committee which will consist of G. Hamilton, R. Schlenger, J. Kafka with input from President Manning. The current bylaws allow the Board of Directors to change or amend the bylaws without being voted on by the membership.
- M. Stevens had questions regarding items moving around on the Outings Calendar since it has been published to the membership. President Manning will coordinate with A. Doll to make sure the changes are published in the newsletter as soon as possible.
- G. Hamilton: refer to New Business section above. He asked that the club t-shirt idea be brought before the membership at tonight's meeting to gauge interest.
- E. Von Halle: Is donating three books published by the Boy Scouts of America on Mining/Prospecting/Metal Detecting to the club library. They list all requirements for a scout to earn a merit badge for these activities. Board member Halle is a former scout and scout leader so is willing to incur the cost and go through the application process with the Boy Scout Council to be able to sign off on a scout's merit badge application. The next step will be to reach out to local Boy Scout troops and invite them to get involved with the club if interested in earning these merit badges.

Tonight's General Meeting Program: Historical and current facts/folklore surrounding the Caribou Mine and surrounding area, given by Peyton Jackson

Announcements: Next Board Meeting May 15, 2024 at 6:00pm Next General Meeting: May 15, 2024 at 7:00pm

Adjournment: Meeting stands adjourned at 6:55 pm. Moved by M. Stevens; 2nd: E. Von Halle.

General Meeting Minutes from Apr 2024

1. Meeting was opened at 7:15 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Pres. Manning then announced that the evening Program which was _Peyton Jackson on the Caribou Mine_.
3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 2370 Silver 28.36 Platinum 937 Palladium Rhodium 5300
4. Web hits for last month: 362.
5. Treasurer John Johnson reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review by anyone who wishes to see it. We have a 'Special Nugget' tonight so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a beautiful specimen.
6. Robert Ahr and Shellie Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 37 members in attendance. There were 7 Guest(s) present tonight. New members ?. The total meeting attendance was 44.
7. Pres. Manning read the 'Question of the Month', which was "... What liquid can fracture/vaporize and leave gold behind?
The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
8. Pres. Manning 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, 2024. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
9. John Johnson announces the 'Cache Clue' # 8.
10. Pres. Manning advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We have additional gold bags so be sure to get them while you can.
11. Pres. Manning informed the membership that the Outings schedule for 2024 has been updated and published in the club newsletter.
12. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break
Additional items to be discussed include:
 - The Public Lands for the People annual raffle is going on. President Manning has tickets for anyone wishing to



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

participate.

- The “blue ticket” drawing for the special nugget is close.
- Additional signups for the Aurora Water Festival are requested.
- Our guest speaker will work with board member K. Singel to set up a “behind the scenes” tour of the Colo. School of Mines museum. Peyton is on the board of the Friends of the Museum.

13. **Pres. Manning** announced the break at 8:05 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:30 pm.

14. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners of the ‘**Question of the Month**’. The answer was, “... Water ”! There were 32 winners who received their extra ticket for the gold drawing.

15. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the ‘**Finds of the Month**’. Those were:

- **Best Coin** – Kevin Singel with a steel penny from the 1940s_
- **Best Jewelry** – Shellie Zornes
- **Best Mineral** – Kevin Singel
- **Best Artifact** – John Lewis with an old glass insulator
- **Best Gold** – Kevin Singel

16. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes including those donated by Kevin Singel and the Smith’s, followed by the drawings for the gold nuggets. **Pres. Manning** 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 **John Johnson and John Olson**.

17. **Pres Manning** announced the winning ticket number for the 50/50 drawing Bill Manning had the winning ticket and won \$15 and the same went to the Club.

18. **Pres. Manning** 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. Manning** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Remember to contribute to 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 May Meeting Program** will be TBA. Having nothing further at this time, remember to always prospect safely.

21. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.**

A Miner’s Laugh

An old miner had a wife who nagged him unmercifully. From morning to night and even later, she was always complaining about something. The only time he ever got relief was when he was in the mine with his old mule. He tried to spend a lot of time in the mine. One day while he was busy mining, she brought him lunch at the mine. He sat down on a bucket and began to eat. Immediately, his wife began complaining and carrying on and on and on, when suddenly his old mule just up and kicked the old woman to death right on the spot. At the funeral several days later, the minister noticed something quite odd. Whenever a woman mourner would stop and speak to the old miner, he would nod his head in agreement, but when a male mourner would speak to him, he would listen and shake his head in disagreement. This was so consistent that the minister felt he needed to know what was going on, so he decided to ask the old miner About it. Following the funeral, the minister walked up to the old boy and asked him why he nodded in accord with all the women but consistently shook his head in disagreement with all the men. The old miner replied that the women would all say something nice about his wife and he would nod in agreement with them. The minister asked him why he shook his head no when the men talked to him.

The old miner replied that it was because all the men wanted to know if his old mule was for sale...!!!

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





Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

The finds of the Month Apr 2024:

The Club has decided to change the Finds of the Month Program to eliminate the 'Bottle' category as well as combine the gold categories into a single category. Therefore, the following submissions were selected by popular vote at the April meeting:

- Best Coin – **KevinSingel** with a 1943 steel penny he found in a coin star machine.
- Best Jewelry – **Shelly Zornes** with a sterling silver ring she found in Denver while metal detecting.
- Best Mineral – **KevinSingel** with a sample of conglomerate gold ore he found near Denver.
- Best Artifact – **John Lewis** with an insulator he found near Denver.
- Best Gold - **Kevin Singel** with 0.581 grams of gold that he found in Colorado.



Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November 2024 meeting when the years Finds of the Month winners will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So, be sure and save them..!

The Pirate's March Hunt by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

The pirate's had their hunt on Wednesday the 24th of April. We had 4 people show up for breakfast and 3 people that showed up ready to go hunt. We decided to go to McDonough Park where we all had a good day, some better than others. Bob H. was the big winner of coins found in the park while Shellie held her own and the other hunters did fair. I ended up with about a dollar plus in change and 1 silver ring. Yippee for me..! Leslie S, Gary H. and Joe K. didn't do too badly but they just need some more time in the field and Chris K. was there to cheer all of us on. Well that is it for this report and I hope to see you all at the next GPR, on Meeting on May 15. Until then, this is the Pirate saying 'Ahhhhhrrr' to all you Treasure Hunters and I will see you all on the next great adventure..!





Claim Jumpers & Crooked Politicians – Nome Gold Rush History Part 2 written by

Monica Bering Sea Paydirt JUNE 14, 2022

How \$600,000.00 in gold was stolen...

The Three Lucky Swedes

Most people who are familiar with Nome, Alaska are also familiar with the story of “The Three Lucky Swedes”. On Sept. 20, 1898, Norwegian-American Jafet Lindeberg, and two naturalized American citizens of Swedish birth, Erik Lindblom and John Brynteson discovered rich deposits of alluvial gold on Anvil Creek, a tributary of the Snake River near Cape Nome. At that time, people could assert their intention to become US citizens by getting their first set of citizenship papers by an authorized US Government Agent to be followed by a second set after their background information had cleared from their country of origin. Miners were eligible to stake a claim if they were already American citizens or could show intent to become citizens. Only the Federal Government had the power to question a claim owner’s citizenship, not other miners, according to federal law.

Brynteson, of Swedish origin, was a fully naturalized citizen, having taken his second papers out in Michigan, where he had been employed as an iron miner in 1896. Lindblom, another Swede, had taken out his second papers in 1894. Lindeberg, a Norwegian, after hearing about the Yukon gold rush, took a job minding and bringing reindeer to America in order to get free passage to the Klondike. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, who headed up the reindeer project, had taken Lindeberg to U.S. Commissioner Shepard in St. Michael to apply for his first naturalization papers. Shepard asserted that he could do this, but he was not really authorized to issue first papers. This helped fuel the fire that ignited what was to come. The Three Lucky Swedes started the Pioneer Mining Company with Lindeberg as the president. They staked claims along the Anvil Creek and below it which turned out to be the richest claims in Nome. The Wild Goose Trading and Mining Company, owned by Charles D. Lane had the other claims around Anvil Creek which proved to be equally as lucrative.

Tensions Rise

By winter of 1899, new arrivals to Nome found that most of the immediate region had been staked which included the highest gold producing ground around the creeks and rivers. Ugly disputes over claims burst into a threat of violence by mid-summer. A US Army detachment from St. Michael’s had been sent to Nome to help keep the peace as crime and tensions grew.

An attempt was made at a miners’ meeting on July 10th, 1899, at a local saloon to have all the claims staked up to that time invalidated to permit a general re-staking of the creeks based on the false claims that the original claim holders were not eligible to stake claims because they were not American citizens at the time.

Second Lieutenant Oliver L. Spaulding, Jr., commanding officer of the army troops detailed to the area, along with three of his men, averted mob action by clearing the saloon at bayonet point and ordering that original claim owners would keep their claims and going forward only they could call District Mine Meetings.

That didn’t stop the miners in their pursuit of taking over control of the staked claims. Among the new arrivals in Nome that summer were attorney’s, Hubbard, Beaman and Hume, who set up an office in Nome and quickly got to work helping miners file “jumper” titles on the already claimed grounds. The jumper titles were only good if the original staked claims proved to be invalid due to the original claim owners not having legal rights to do so. Within a matter of months, the attorneys had bought over 60% of the jumper titles from broke miners, including those covering claims owned by the Pioneer Mining Company.

Shady Politics

In early 1900 attorneys O.P. Hume and W.P. Hubbard left Nome and met with Alexander McKenzie in New York. McKenzie was the U.S. Marshall for North Dakota, sheriff of Burleigh County, and a Republican operative powerful enough to have his state’s capital changed from Yankton to Bismark, where he had property waiting to be sold. In the new state of North Dakota, he personally selected many Republican candidates for the state legislature, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the Republican National Committeeman for North Dakota for 21 years. He was a political powerhouse with a lot of close connections in Washington, DC.

News of the gold strike in Nome had already reached McKenzie by the time he met with Hume and Hubbard and he had been looking for a way to get in on the action. McKenzie wanted to gain the rich claims in the Nome area by using the erroneous argument that “The Three Lucky Swedes” and other claim locators were really aliens, not citizens. Therefore, the jumpers were the rightful claim owners. After that meeting McKenzie formed The Alaska Gold Mining Company where he owned 51% of the stock. Hume, Hubbard and others in McKenzie’s circle, including a couple US Senators,



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

already owned around 500 claim titles, most of them jumper titles, that were purchased by McKenzie's new company in exchange for stock.

McKenzie's first plan was to have his close friends, and now business partners, Senator Henry Hansbrough of North Dakota and Senator Thomas Carter of Montana, add an amendment to Senate Bill 3919, a bill providing a civil code for Alaska. The amendment would remove two sections from the bill, that would invalidate the Anvil Creek and other claims stating that the original locators were aliens and not entitled to locate claims, much less transfer them.

Not even McKenzie's political pull could get the amendment passed as there was fierce opposition on the other side that had their own powerful allies in Washington. Charles Lane of the Wild Goose claims had his own friends in Washington DC and at the end of the day the so-called McKenzie Amendment was defeated and left out of the final bill that became law on June 6th, 1900 establishing a civil government for Alaska. Had it passed with the amendment, McKenzie would have instantly made millions of dollars from his jumper titles.

Judge Arthur H. Noyes, Bought and Paid For



Even though the amendment didn't pass, McKenzie had another plan. The new law established a federal district court for the district of Alaska and authorized the appointment of three judges to reside in various divisions of that territory. Once again, using his political friends, he was successful in getting his own man, Arthur H. Noyes, appointed as Federal Judge to the 2nd District of Alaska, which covered Nome and all its gold rich mines.

Once appointed, Noyes was accompanied by McKenzie to Nome, where they wasted no time in putting McKenzie's plan into action. By law, Judge Noyes was required to go to St. Michael to register and could not conduct any legal proceedings for thirty days. He never went to St. Michael's to register and he was conducting legal proceedings within 2 days of landing in Nome on July 19th, 1900. His first order was to appoint McKenzie as the receiver for any disputed claims until the disputes were settled.

Receivers were supposed to be impartial, protect the value of the property and protect the interests of the defendants and the plaintiffs. As the main stockholder in the Alaskan Gold Mining Company, he was secretly one of the plaintiffs himself with his jumper titles. It was clear to everyone that he had no business being named the receiver in any of the disputed claims.

McKenzie's first stop was the office of Hubbard, Beaman and Hume where

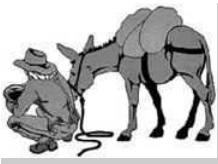
he had them start filing complaints about the legality of the richest claims on Anvil Creek which were controlled by the Pioneer Mining Company and the Wild Goose Mining and Trading Company. Noyes would grant the injunction, evicting the rightful owners, placing the claims into receivership to be controlled by McKenzie who would mine them and keep the gold. Noyes signed the orders before the claim owners knew what was happening, illegally, not notifying them before any ruling was made. With the law on his side, McKenzie would have the rightful claim owners forcibly removed if they wouldn't leave on their own. Due to the injunction, they were forbidden from stepping a foot on their own claims.

Judge Noyes would drag out the litigation while McKenzie would clean out the mines. Everything they were doing was highly illegal but there wasn't a higher judicial authority for the owners to appeal to in Alaska at the time. Every motion the defendant's attorneys would file, Judge Noyes denied. Left with no recourse in Nome, the attorneys for the Pioneer Mining Company and Wild Goose Mining and Trading took their petitions directly to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco via steamboat.

Taking Back the Mines

In late August, 1900 Judge William Morrow read their petitions and it was immediately apparent to him that both Noyes and McKenzie had "grossly abused their power". He immediately ordered the injunctions to be lifted and the original claim owners be allowed back on their claims. He also dismissed McKenzie as receiver and ordered him to return all property that he had seized along with any gold he had mined.

When word of the Circuit Courts orders reached Nome on September 14, 1900, McKenzie refused to follow them, proclaiming, "No one can hurt me, I'm too powerful at Headquarters." Implying his friends in Washington DC would protect him. Noyes refused to enforce the court orders from the 9th District, stating that it was now out of his jurisdiction and he had no control over McKenzie.



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

When McKenzie refused to follow the court order, a posse of armed men from the Pioneer Mining Company drove his men off several of the Anvil Creek claims, reclaiming them. The dispute was boiling over in Nome with the small military detachment from St. Michael's trying to keep the peace and avoid bloodshed on the streets of Nome.

With the situation getting worse and McKenzie refusing to give the mines back, attorneys once again headed down to San Francisco to tell Judge Morrow that McKenzie was refusing to follow the order and Noyes refused to enforce it. They were racing to avoid the impending winter freeze of the Bering Sea. It would make the trip back to Nome impossible until the ice melted and leave McKenzie and his men more time to continue cleaning out the mines.

The Final Outcome

They returned on October 15th, with two Deputy Marshals from California to enforce the earlier order from the circuit court and with a warrant to arrest McKenzie. After McKenzie's arrest, he refused to open the bank boxes containing the gold he had illegally mined, as did the bank's president. The marshals broke into the boxes and returned the gold to the rightful owners. McKenzie was taken on the last ship out of Nome in 1900 before the harbor froze up. On 11 February 1901, he was found guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to one year in jail. He only served 3 months as he received a Presidential Pardon from President McKinley.

When the ship carrying McKenzie left Nome that night the owners and operators of the Anvil Creek mines all shot their guns in the air and celebrated the end of McKenzie's time in Nome.

Judge Noyes served until 1902 when he was convicted of contempt of court and fined \$1000. President Roosevelt removed him from office. He never served a day in jail for his part in McKenzie's plot.

Many have concluded that the men got off so lightly due to their Washington connections. It's believed that McKenzie illegally mined over \$600,000 worth of gold from the stolen mines in the 3 months that he had control of them. While most of it was recovered, there are still some who contend that he took more than that and it ended up in the pockets of his Washington DC friends.



Monica

Monica's a treasure hunter at heart and loves watching adventure seekers around the world on TV and online. She has been learning and exploring the world of gold prospecting with the help of seasoned professional gold miners while continuously learning more each day. She panned her first gold from the Bering Sea on the beaches of Nome, Alaska.

Monica's been writing content and designing websites for over 15 years.

Why a volcano in Antarctica (South Pole) is spewing out gold dust?

Story by Noora Mykkanen

An expert has revealed why a volcano in Antarctica is spewing out gold dust – and whether it could lead to riches. Antarctica is a continent of contradictions, with hostile cold temperatures and sizzling lava lakes inside massive volcanos. Mount Erebus is the world's southern-most active volcano – and it is called one of the most ferocious on the continent, according to IFL Science.

But a gold dust volcano makes an eruption sound less scary.

Rising from the snow and ice up to 12,448ft on the Ross Island near the McMurdo Station, it is one of eight or nine active volcanoes on the continent which has more than 130 in total.

Antarctic surveyor James Clark Ross named it in 1841 after one of his ships, *HMS Erebus*, the name of the ancient Greek god of the underworld.

The volcano contains one of only five long-lasting lava lakes on Earth, with plumes of gas and steam rising from its depths.

Mount Erebus is also spewing out gold dust, scientists discovered in the early 1990s.

They spotted gold particles of up to 60 micrometers in the snow near the volcano.

It releases around 80 grams of gold per day which is worth around £5,000.

But British volcanologist Tamsin Mather told Metro.co.uk that gold is not the only valuable material that comes out.

Why is it happening?



Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

Mather, professor of earth sciences at the University of Oxford, said Mount Erebus has an ‘unusual chemistry to its magma.’

‘It is pumping gas 24/7,’ she said.

‘It is one of the few that has persistent active lava lakes in its crater pulsing around, and that makes it an incredible location,’ she explained.

Occasionally, smoldering hot lava bombs also burst out of the lava lakes.

Prof Mather explained: ‘Within the gasses are particles and metals, including gold.’

They are tiny specs, just chemical compounds of gold rather than nuggets found by prospectors in the Klondike gold rush. Despite its unusual magma, Erebus is ‘just one of many pumping out gold’, the expert said, adding that each volcano ‘has slightly different chemistry.’

Other precious metals like copper also comes out in the process. However, harnessing the ‘metallic bounty’ is not easy, Prof Mather said. She continued: ‘The problem is if it is being pumped out it is really dilute.

‘It is really hard to harness it – you cannot put an umbrella over a large volcano, trust me.

‘It is really hard to harness that gas coming out.’

But one way is to ‘see if we can harness the metals in volcanic brines.’

‘That might be the way to get useful metals for batteries so we can get to the Net Zero target.

She said she thought Mount Erebus making headlines again could be driven by ‘growing awareness of our need for critical metals to drive green tech.’

The expert had just returned from Mount Etna in Italy and the Caribbean where she was studying ways to harness the metals.

The extremely remote volcano is most famous for the air disaster in November 1979 when an Air New Zealand Flight 901 smashed into it



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The Gold Nugget

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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

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



Coming Announcements and Special Events for June 2024 (GPR Events – Check the Outing Schedule)

Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (<https://www.wmmi.org/>)
 (Free to GPR Member with badge)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 <u>Flag Day</u>	15
16 <u>Father's Day</u>	17	18	19 <u>GPR Club Meeting</u>	20 <u>Summer Begins</u>	21	22 <u>Prospecting: North Clear Creek</u>
23/30	24	25	26 <u>Pirate's Hunt (weather permitting)</u>	27	28	29