



GOLDEN NUGGETS

- 1717 - Sir Isaac Newton, master of the British Mint, established a fixed price for gold equivalent to about \$20 per ounce (Troy.)
- 1792 - Alexander Hamilton, first U.S. Secretary of Treasury under President George Washington, priced the American dollar at 24 3/4 grains of gold (not quite 1/20 of an ounce, making its price \$19.39.)
- This set the "gold standard."
- The price of gold remained approximately \$20 per ounce until February 1934, a period of 142 years.

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The Prospector's Quill

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NOVEMBER 2017

Gold in America: History Might Surprise You

by Calvin Johnson

Historical information herein is from documents written by geologist Palmer C. Sweet of the Virginia Division of Mineral Resources.

The only known reference to gold in the southern Appalachians was published in the 18th century and appears in Thomas Jefferson's notes on Virginia. He described a piece of ore, found in 1782 on the bank of the Rappahannock River, that yielded 17 pennyweight of gold.

Placer gold mining started in Virginia about 1804. Lode gold mining quickly followed. Gold from Vir-

ginia and South Carolina was sent to the mint in 1829 and from Georgia in 1830.

Thomas Jefferson wrote of this in his "Notes on Virginia", "I know a single instance of gold found in this state. It was interspersed in small specks in a lump of ore, of about four pounds weight, which yielded seventeen pennyweight of gold, of extraordinary ductility."

The principal mining boom in Virginia ran from about 1827-1861. From 1800 to the present there have been approximately 245 gold mines in Virginia.

In 1782 a 0.85-ounce gold nugget was discovered on the north side of

the Rappahannock River near Little Falls plantation in Stafford County, Virginia.

The New Yorker newspaper (June 2, 1838) reported that, in 1831, the "weekly product of the [Virginia] mines was then about \$100,000 in value, or \$5,000,000 annually. But a small part of the gold is sent to the U. S. mint; by far the largest part is sent to Europe, particularly to Paris. The Gold mines of Virginia have only attracted attention since 1827, the first Gold noticed as received at the U. S. Mint from Virginia was in 1829, amounting to \$2,500. The quantity received in 1833 had increased to \$104,000."

<http://staffordcountymuseum.com/artifact/stafford-historical-map/>



Historic Independence Mine Headframe to be Restored

Reprinted from September 2017 "The Ore Cart"

From Alma to Victor, Park and Teller counties are filled with mining history. Today, Victor is still the base of modern gold mining activity. Newmont Mining Corporation, headquartered in Greenwood Village, CO, acquired the Cripple Creek & Victor gold mine from AngloGold Ashanti Ltd. in August, 2015. Newmont has maintained a commitment to preserving the visible history of the Cripple Creek Gold District - "The World's Greatest Gold Camp." As one of its newest endeavors, Newmont recently announced its project to preserve the historic Independence Mine Headframe.

From Newmont Mining: Entropy and the subsidence of its underground mine workings have caused the magnificent Independence Headframe to require an investment in its rehabilitation and preservation. The Cripple Creek Mining District is Colorado's paramount gold producing area and the Independence Mine Headframe, located in the district just north of the City of Mines, Victor, Colorado, may be the state's most iconic gold mining structure.

Winfield Scott Stratton laid claim to what would become his fortune on July 4, 1891—the Independence Mine. He eventually sold the mine for \$11 M and because he was certain about the long-term potential of Cripple Creek, he invested heavily in the mining claims around the area. In addition to his mining investments, Stratton made significant philanthropic contributions to infrastructure in the city of Colorado Springs; to education at the Colorado

School of Mines; and to the Myron Stratton Foundation. This is why Newmont and the State of Colorado are investing in the preservation of this landmark mining structure.



To this point, the on-going rehabilitation project has involved stabilizing the ground around the Independence Headframe, but in late August; Newmont began significant construction on the structure itself. The original timber and hardware will be reused as much as possible; however, to stabilize the headframe so it will continue to stand against the test of time, deteriorated parts of the structure will be replaced. This will require that the entire structure be disassembled from the top down. This method will allow for the complete inspection of the structure as it is reassembled.



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The Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) was founded around 1974 as a non-profit organization for recreational gold prospectors in the Colorado area. Our membership at any given time has grown to over 600 members and continues to grow across the Front Range, the nation, and even the world!

GPOC Outings & Events Planner

In response to feedback from our members, we are adding a rolling three-month planning calendar to each issue of the Quill. Now you can see and plan for events months in advance—and make requests to the Planning Committee for outings and events in YOUR club! Also check the next page and the GPOC web site at www.gpoc.club for more info on events including location and start times.

NOVEMBER 2017

GPOC PROSPECTOR'S STORE, SILENT AUCTION (NO SPEAKER)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 GPOC Board Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8 GPOC Gen. Member Meeting	9	10	11
12	13 SCFD Free Day @DMNS	14	15	16	17	18
19	20		22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 GPOC Claims Committee
26	27		28	29 GPOC Planning Comm.	30 	

DECEMBER 2017

HOLIDAY PARTY (NO SPEAKER)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 GPOC Board Meeting	8	9
10 SCFD Free Day @DMNS	11	12	13 GPOC Holiday Party	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 Merry Christmas!	26 	27 NO PLANNING MEETING	28	29	30 GPOC Claims Committee

- **GPOC Board Meetings** are held the 1st Thursday of each month at **7 pm**, Gold Hill Police Station, 955 Moreno Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO, (access from W. Moreno Ave.). GPOC Members only.
- **GPOC General Membership meetings** are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at **7 pm**, Elks Lodge, 3400 N. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO. The General Public is welcome!
- **GPOC Planning Committee Meeting.** **7 pm** at La Casita, 3725 E Woodmen Rd, Colorado Springs, CO GPOC Members Only.
- **GPOC Claims Committee Meetings** are held at WMMI at **10am**, the last Saturday of the month. GPOC Members Only.
- **GPOC New Member Orientations** are held on Saturdays indicated at 10am @ WMMI. March and June are also followed by a GPOC Power Class—where you can study the GPOC Rules, Ethics, and Regulations—and earn discounts on Power Permits.
- **GPOC New Member Outings** are held the Sunday after New member Orientations. Meet @ 9am in the Cabela's parking lot, off the Ridgeway Parkway exit off I-25, south side of Denver. Look for the YELLER GOLD FLAG!

JANUARY 2018

DAVID EMSLIE—PROSPECTOR'S GOLD AND GEMS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 GPOC Board Meeting	5	6 WMMI Family Day
7	8	9	10 GPOC Gen Meeting	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Planning Committee Mtg.	25	26	27 GPOC Claims Committee
28	29	30	31			



The Prospector's Quill Fall Edition

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Gotcha covered – come visit

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