



The Prospector's Quill

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DECEMBER 2017

NEWS NUGGETS

- The 2017 power season is officially over. Don't forget to winterize your power equipment!
- Follow these easy steps to ensure your equipment will survive the winter:
- First, change the oil.
- Next check the air filter. Clean or change as needed.
- There are two approaches to winterizing your small engine when dealing with the gasoline left in your fuel tank at the end of the season. One approach is to drain the fuel out of the gas tank and then start and run the engine to get all the fuel out of the fuel lines and carburetor. The other is to add a stabilizer.

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From the GPOC Archives: Treasure Stories of the West

Victor, CO Train Robbery

During the summer of 1897, four men hijacked five iron chests of gold bullion from a moving train 10 miles south of Victor, Co. The train was on its regular run from the Victor stamp mill to Denver, Co. The four train robbers were killed shortly thereafter in a running gunfight with pursuing lawmen, but none of the gold was recovered. Posse members made a rough search of the area at the time, but there was no sign of the stolen gold. For years afterward, prospectors and treasure hunters searched for the hidden loot, but it has never been reported found.



Midland Train leaving gold district 1897

Virginia Dale Stage Station

In 1863, a stagecoach along the Overland Trail carrying an army payroll of \$60,000 (which would be about \$1 million dollars today) in ten and twenty dollar gold coins was destined for Fort Sanders in Wyoming Territory. The gold shipment represented several months of back pay for the soldiers at Fort Sanders; however, the unfortunate soldiers never saw the gold.

Only about a mile from the Virginia Dale Station, the stage was robbed by six masked outlaws at Long View Hill. The gang took the strongbox

from the stage and headed west towards the wooded foothills, where they blew the lock off of the box, removed the gold coins, and buried the treasure.

However, before they could spend their ill-gained wealth, the bandits were pursued and killed by the U.S. Cavalry. The Cavalry later found the iron strong box in a nearby creek, the sides and bottom gone, riddled with bullet holes – and, obviously, empty.

The Overland Trail stage line was regularly terrorized by outlaws, where the surrounding area provided multiple opportunistic hideouts.

One hideout, labeled the Robbers Roost atop Table Mountain, was so popular that the outlaws built a cabin there. Table Mountain, only about a mile northeast of the Virginia Dale Stage Station, was a perfect hideout, as it is difficult to climb with practically perpendicular cliffs and a rim of shale.

At the time, it was rumored that Joseph "Jack" Slade, the Station Master was the leader of the gang. Jack Slade, not as famous as many other outlaw characters, was nevertheless, as notorious as many of them. Slade was said to have had an uncontrollable temper, was a heavy drinker, had murdered in the past, and was eventually hanged in Montana. Though the stage line suspected Slade, they could not prove it, so they just fired him. Uncharacteristically, the bad-tempered Slade, left without any problems.

Later Jack Slade moved on to Virginia City, Montana. A heavy drinker with a bad temper, he wrecked a saloon soon after his arrival. Jack was arrested but he tore up the arrest and threatened the judge. Though he pleaded for his life, he was immediately hanged.

Virginia Dale, his girlfriend (or common law wife) was brought to town by one of Jack's friends, took his body home, pickled it in alcohol in a metal casket, and kept it under her bed for several months. She then took it to Salt Lake City, Utah and buried him in the old Mormon Cemetery where his body remains today.

The gold taken by the robbers at Virginia Dale has never been found.

Today, Virginia Dale is nothing more than a ghost town, located in the northern part of Larimer County, about 45 miles northwest of Fort Collins, and just about four miles south of the Wyoming border on US Highway 287. The old Overland Trail Stage Station is listed on the National Register of Historical sites and recently efforts have been made to preserve the old station.

The stage station is situated at the very end of County Road 43F, about 1 mile east of US 287. A monument erected for the station marks the



beginning of CR 43F. Follow the county road through a narrow gorge beneath Lover's Leap, past a ranch, and it will take you right to the door. The station itself is on private property, but the access to the site is on a county road. If you intend to visit the Stage Station, you can take pictures of the grounds and the exterior of the building, but please do not trespass onto the private property.



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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.

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	PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY DSH & TOY FOR TOTS NOW! VOLUNTEER FOR THE PARTY COMMITTEE!		13 GPOC Holiday Party	14	15
17	18			19	20	21
24/31 	25 Merry Christmas!	26 	27 NO PLANNING MEETING	28	29	30 GPOC Claims Committee

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		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			



- **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!

FEBRUARY 2018

SYDNEY MOON—SPANISH MONUMENTS AND TREASURE TRAILS

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





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Gotcha covered – come visit

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