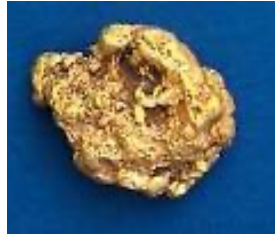


THE NUGGETEER



May 2022

Vol.2 No.5

A Message from the President Tim's Tidbits

Its Spring Runoff time, so be aware of swift moving water and the potential for flash floods from Springtime thunderstorms up stream.
Please be safe out there.

Tim Pitney
President COSGPAA

Web address: <http://cosgpaa.org>

Facebook address closed <https://www.facebook.com/groups/733783243720768/members/>

Facebook address open <https://www.facebook.com/cosgpaa>

Tonight's precious metals spot prices per Troy ounce

Year	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium
2021	\$1796.70	\$26.62	\$1,231.92	\$3,04.13	\$26,6000.00
2022	\$1,910.83	\$23.43	\$1017.28	\$2,337.67	\$15,750.00

5/11/22

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GPAA

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER



GPAA OFFICERS Colorado Springs Chapter

President	Tim Pitney
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Hospitality Committee	Position Open

Renewals, multi-year discounts and life memberships available on-line at www.Goldprospectors.org , or call 800-551-9707 , and Please mention that you want to be part of the COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER.

MEETING MINUTES



May 4, 2022

Attendees: 28 in person; 129 by e-mail



The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, by Chapter President Tim Pitney and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Tim said the outing on April 23rd to Reynolds Landing Park in Littleton was attended by four members. Unfortunately, high winds and unexpectedly low temperatures resulted in a cancellation. Tim provided a medical update for Richard Sweeny and was optimistic that he would be back on the lecture/training circuit by Fall. Member Richard Logue announced that Mile High Dowsers in Lakewood, CO, will hold their annual conference and training event on June 25th, beginning at 9:00 am. For more information visit their website: [Mile High Dowsers](#) or their Facebook page. Richard will provide details at the next Chapter meeting.

Treasurer Alton Oakes gave the Chapter financial report and reminded attendees about the scheduled outings on May 7-8 to GPOC's *Woody's 1*, and on May 21st to Arapahoe Bar. Member Richard Cook reminded us that *Woody's 1* is a private GPOC claim that is only open to the public once a year for this outing.

Tim polled the membership about a tour of the Molly Kathleen underground mine in Cripple Creek and other available mine tours but received limited interest. Tim reminded members that this year's Independence Day (July 4th) Holiday falls on the Monday before our July meeting on July 6th. At the June meeting, Members will be asked to vote on cancelling the July meeting if it conflicts with too many vacation plans. The membership also voted to hold this year's picnic on Saturday August 13th. A picnic committee will be elected at the June meeting to organize the event.

After the mid-meeting break, Alton gave a presentation on high banking with a dry demonstration of both battery and gas powered equipment. While battery-operated equipment is limited in capacity, it is more mobile, can be used as a recirculatory when limited water is available, and is legal at many public access areas. Gas-powered equipment is designed for high production, team use with operation either in or remote from the water source. Because of its capacity its use is prohibited or requires permits on public access properties. A question was asked about using a high banker as a dredge. Alton acknowledged that it is a common practice, but due to time constraints, he deferred providing details. Alton said he would have a dredging presentation at a future meeting that would cover combo-high-banker dredging, floating dredges and "dry land dredging."

MEETING MINUTES



May 4, 2022

Continued



After the presentation the door prize drawing was held, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm. Thank you to members Phyllis Bray and Erla Cloer for providing cookies for the meeting. Also thank you to those members who assisted in setting up and tearing down the meeting displays.

The next Chapter meeting will be held Wednesday, June 1, 2022, beginning at 7:00 pm, at the Salvation Army building, 208 Cunningham Drive, Security, CO.

FYI. The next monthly meeting for Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPOC) is Wednesday May 11th, 7-8:45 pm, American Legion Post 38, 6685 Southmoor Dr, Fountain, CO.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS May 4, 2022

Silver Thomas Burke

Silver Tim Pitney

Gold Steven Sprague

Kiel McIntyre

Kiel McIntyre

John Wood

Lorraine Sirois

Theresa Bailey

Richard Cook

Teresa Bailey

Lorraine Sirois

Tony Rush

A Day in the Life of a California 49er

By Steve Nubie

What they ate and drank

Cooking was done over an open fire and cast iron was the cookware of choice. Some prospectors foraged for food or hunted or fished but in actual fact, most of them starved. The influx of so many prospectors took its toll on the landscape and both wild plants and animals were soon scattered to more remote regions and few wanted to leave the gold to hunt or fish.

There was also a general lack of stores or markets in the gold fields and even the few that popped up charged exorbitant prices for the most basic foods. As a result, malnutrition and scurvy were constant companions.

Flour was 50¢ a pound the equivalent of \$15 a pound in today's dollars. The same applied to just about any other food but in some ways it didn't matter. Most of the prospectors were men and few of them knew how to cook anyway. It was a time when women did all of the cooking and there were few women scouring the creeks and hills looking for gold.

A popular food with many of the 49ers was a bread made from a wet, fermenting mass of yeast called a sourdough starter. Sourdough bread was a result and it was a staple that many of the prospectors managed to make and bake usually in a cast iron Dutch oven or simply fried in a pan to make what is commonly known as Bannock bread.

Any sourdough starter was highly prized and kept alive and growing in a small crock. The Boudin bakery in San Francisco is famous for their sourdough bread and the original starter was actually saved from the bakery during the earthquake of 1906 by one of the bakers. The bread made to this day at Boudin is from the same starter used in 1849 and has literally given rise to every loaf of Boudin sourdough bread ever baked.

The general lack of cooking skills led many miners to find food in local restaurants that started to pop up with greater frequency. It was in these restaurants that many Chinese immigrants found their fortunes rather than in the gold fields as they prepared inexpensive meals for the miners consisting of rice, steamed vegetables and whatever meat was on hand. The miners loved it and it's rumored the Chinese cooks called it Chop Suey. It was far from a traditional Chinese dish and was said to be a loose translation for "leftovers on rice." The popularity of Chinese food in San Francisco continues to this day and a lot of it started while feeding the 49ers during the California gold rush.

A taste of success: The Hangtown Fry

When a 49er struck it rich, or let's just say they had a very good day in the gold fields, they would reward themselves with a really good meal. A tradition for many was to order a dish known as the Hangtown Fry. The Hangtown Fry first appeared in Placerville, California. It was known at the time as Hangtown because a gang of outlaws were hanged there. A successful prospector is rumored to have gone to the Cary hotel in Hangtown and asked the kitchen to make a dish from the most expensive ingredients they had. The cook obliged by frying up eggs, bacon and oysters which were the most exotic foods in the area at the time. If you'd like to celebrate your own good fortune after a day of prospecting, here's the recipe.

Hangtown Fry Ingredients

3 eggs
1/4 cup heavy cream
1/4 teaspoon of salt
1/8 teaspoon of nutmeg
Cracked black pepper
6 oysters
Flour for dusting the oysters
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
3 slices of bacon

Directions

Brown the bacon and drain on paper towels. Reserve the drippings.

Combine the cream, salt, pepper, nutmeg in a bowl and beat until egg yolks are just incorporated and then add the oysters.

Drop the oysters into the flour to coat lightly.

Brown the oysters in the bacon fat on both sides and drain.

Add the butter to the bacon fat and add the eggs to the pan and turn occasionally to make a coarse omelet.

Place the omelet on a plate and top with the oysters and crumbled bacon. Sprinkle with parsley.

Returning home

Unlike some of the more remote gold fields like the Klondike, many 49ers chose to stay in California. Just as many returned home to their families but once again they confronted the cost and risk of travel especially if they lived on the east coast and had to travel by boat.

The greatest risk on their return was once again enduring the crossing of the Panamanian isthmus. In fact, Sheldon Shufelt died at the age of 32 as a result of contracting malaria in Panama on his return trip. He was kidnapped by Spanish bandits on the isthmus but managed to escape but not before he was stricken by the malarial infection. His own words in one of the last letters he wrote tell the harsh tale confronting many returning prospectors.

“Many, very many, that come here meet with bad success & thousands will leave their bones here. Others will lose their health, contract diseases that they will carry to their graves with them. Some will have to beg their way home, & probably one half that come here will never make enough to carry them back. But this does not alter the fact about the gold being plenty here, but shows what a poor frail being man is, how liable to disappointments, disease & death.”

The Bottom Line

It's estimated the total take in gold from 1849 to 1857 from the California gold rush totaled 750,000 pounds. That's according to the History Channel. If you do the math that comes out to 12,000,000 ounces. 12 million ounces multiplied by today's gold price of \$1600 an ounce comes out to \$19,200,000,000. In case you need that spelled out it equals 19 billion two-hundred million dollars.

What is stunning is that very few of the 300,000 49ers managed to break even let alone strike it rich. Perhaps the luckiest and the wealthiest turned out to be the merchants, restaurants and saloon keepers who catered to the miners with overpriced food, goods and services. There were a lucky few who got on the gold and not only managed to keep it but make it home alive. For them the dream came true, and for just as many today, the dream lives on.

Steve Nubie is a freelance writer and GPAA Member who lives in Michigan

GPAA

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

WHEN: Saturday, 21 May 2022,

WHERE: Rendezvous 9:30 – 10:00 am, northeast corner of the parking lot for the Youngfield Trailhead, 4100 Youngfield Street, Wheat Ridge, CO.

DETAILS: This is a public access prospecting park and Clear Creek Trail access point. Panning, sluicing, and battery-operated equipment allowed. Public toilets (Porta-Potty) on site.

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday, 7-8 May 2022, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily

WHERE: GPOC Claim Woody's 1&2, Salida, CO

DETAILS: GPOC Lets Go Gold Panning Days – Open to the Public for this event. Panning, dry washers, battery operated equipment and shoreline sluicing. Powered dredging and high banking demonstrations.

Complete details and driving directions provided by separate e-mail. Any Questions, contact Alton Oakes, 719-439-3590

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COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER

The Nuggeteer is published monthly following the regularly scheduled chapter meetings. It will be distributed by email and posted to the Chapter web site. To be added to or removed from our email list, please send your request to cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com. To add an article please submit it to the editor at cosgpaahospitalitycommittee@gmail.com.

COLORADO SPRINGS GPAA CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month

From 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at:

The Salvation Army building:

208 Cunningham Drive

Security, CO 80911

All General Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7pm to 9:00pm

MEETING DATES

June 1 2022

July 6 2022

August 13 2022 Picnic Saturday

September 7 2022

October 5 2022

November 2 2022

December 7 2022 Christmas Party

GPAA

Colorado Springs Chapter Links

Sunny Mountain Prospectors

Golden

802 N. Washington St.

Golden, CO 80401

(303) 529-0060

Hours:

Thursday - Saturday: 11 am to 5 pm

Closed Sunday - Wednesday

<https://sunnymountain.net>

Colorado Springs (temporarily closed)

3007 N. El Paso Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

(719) 722-3998

Gold Prospectors of Colorado

<https://gpoc.club>

[\(20+\) Gold Prospectors of Colorado | Groups | Facebook](#)

•American Legion Post 38

•6685 Southmoor Dr,
Fountain, CO 80817

The Rock Doc

17897 US Hwy. 285

Nathrop, Colorado 81236

(between Buena Vista & Salida, 5 miles south of Nathrop)

<http://www.therockdoc.net>

Public Lands for the People

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Ken Bond at 719-573-0452 to leave message

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