



**JANUARY MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order by President Bob Morrison with 29 members and 3 visitors present. Stan Lang was not available for the Treasurer's Report - Bobreported that we have approximately \$1316 in checking.

Ron McGee bought some gold nuggets when he was in Stanton, AZ. He offered to sell them to the club for the raffles. The membership voted to buy the gold which cost \$342.

Bob, Dennis Rennison and Pete Somontes worked the panning demonstration at the Longmont Rock & Gem Show December 9th, 10th and 11th. They sold \$55 worth ofsupplies.

Bob will try to get Dan Hausel to speak to the club again or possibly hold another outing for us. More details will be available later.

The State Director still wants to set up an outing for Perry Massey to come to Wyoming. A meeting will be held with the Chapter Presidents in February to decide on a date for the outing.

Dallas Lake announced that he's setting up his jewelry and leatherwork business again. If you need anything done, contact one of the officers.

The Cheyenne Gem Show will be the weekend after Mother's Day in May. The Club will be setting up a panning booth once again this year. Volunteers will be needed for set up either Friday night or Saturday morning, depending when they let us in; volunteers will also be needed for Saturday and Sunday panning demonstrations and for the Sunday tear down.

Bob suggested that we have a "show & tell" activity at one of our summer outings. The members can bring in their different detectors, dredges, high bankers etc. so the other members and the new members can see what different kinds of equipment are available for prospecting.

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**GOLD PRICES STILL RISING**

Gold closed at \$553.50 per troy oz. on the NY Mercantile on Friday 20 Jan 2006.  
Silver closed at \$8.880 per troy oz. and Platinum was at \$1027.70 per troy oz.

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## RAFFLE WINNERS

Raffle Donations: Ken Wilcox donated 2 souvenir bottles of liqueur w/gold flakes floating in it.

Jerry Bruce - liqueur bottle w/gold  
Lee Beatty - spark plug wrench  
Ken Sider - 45 pc ratchet, socket set  
Don Gochmour - gold pan and old prospector post card  
George Durako - tweezers  
Orris Wickham - 1923 Silver dollar  
Carl Filter - thermos w/2 coffee mugs  
Lee Beatty - small gold nugget

Name tag - Liqueur bottle w/gold - John Eggleston

50/50 \$41.00 -George Stumpf

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I am looking for recipes stories or articles for the newsletter. If you have something you would like to share with the other members please email it to me at [psomontes@Yahoo.com](mailto:psomontes@Yahoo.com) or you may hand it to me at the meetings  
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## HARDTACK & GINGERBREAD

In the 1700's the standard bread issued to English soldiers and sailors was hardtack.

A simple, easy to make cracker consisting of flour, salt, and water it kept well and could withstand being thrown around in a sack. The Royal Navy would load sacks of hardtack onto their ships to sustain the crew during voyages lasting over a year. As the cracker aged it became harder and the only way to eat it was to soak in water or soup. Now storing crackers in cloth sacks did nothing to prevent vermin from getting into the food. Rats, men and insects all ate the hardtack. It was common for the sailors to skim weevils off the surface of their soup after putting in the hardtack. Also the hardtack would mildew but the sailors would just brush the green off and eat the cracker.

The Royal Army had things a little bit better. The hardtack issued to them was their battle rations, normally in camp they had a regular cook to prepare meals. Since he also made the hardtack they usually had a fresh supply without the weevils.

When the American Revolution started General Washington started looking for a food for the new Army. Hardtack was an obvious answer but there was a problem, the British made it a crime to produce hardtack unless it was under contract to their forces. Anyone caught making the cracker would have their property seized and be considered a traitor to the Crown. There were enough British sympathizers (Tories) that it was difficult to produce enough hardtack to feed an army.

The answer was gingerbread. After baking gingerbread does not spoil. Now the gingerbread of Colonial times and the type we see today are quite different. Their gingerbread more closely resembles our ginger snap cookies than the sponge bread that we enjoy today. The gingerbread houses that you see during Christmas are what our first American soldiers ate.

Since gingerbread was a stable item in Colonial homes, especially in New England, it could be produced in large quantities without arousing suspicion.

It wasn't until after the first battles when the British captured American soldiers that they discovered the secret of gingerbread. They were never able to stop the flow of this hardy cracker, nor did they ever adopt gingerbread, though it was superior to hardtack in many ways.

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I found these on the website of the Museum of the City of San Francisco .

The Miner's Ten Commandments. A man spake these words, and said: I am a miner, wandering "from away down east," to sojourn in a strange land. And behold I've seen the elephant, yea, verily, I saw him, and bear witness, that from the key of his trunk to the end of his tail, his whole body hath passed before me; and I followed him until his huge feet stood before a clapboard shanty; then with his trunk extended he pointed to a candle-card tacked upon a shingle, as though he would say Read, and I read the

#### MINERS' TEN COMMANDMENTS

I. Thou shalt have no other claim than one.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thyself any false claim, nor any likeness to a mean man, by jumping one: for I, a miner, am a just one, and will visit the miners around about, and they will judge thee; and when they shall decide, thou shalt take thy pick, thy pan, thy shovel and thy blankets with all thou hast and shall depart seeking other good diggings, but thou shalt find none. Then when thou hast paid out all thy dust, worn out thy boots and garments so that there is nothing good about them but the pockets, and thy patience is like unto thy garments, then in sorrow shall thou return to find thy claim worked out, and yet thou hath no pile to hide in the ground, or in the old boot beneath thy bunk, or in buckskin or in bottle beneath thy cabin, and at last thou shalt hire thy body out to make thy board and save thy bacon.

III. Thou shalt not go prospecting before thy claim gives out. Neither shalt thou take thy money, nor thy gold dust, nor thy good name, to the gaming table in vain; for monte, twenty-one, roulette, faro, lansquenet and poker, will prove to thee that the more thou puttest down the less thou shalt take up; and when thou thinkest of thy wife and children, thou shalt not hold thyself guiltless—but insane.

IV. Thou shalt not remember what thy friends do at home on the Sabbath day, lest the remembrance may not compare favorably with what thou doest here. Six days thou mayst dig or pick; but the other day is Sunday; yet thou washest all thy dirty shirts, darnest all thy stockings, tap thy boots, mend thy clothing, chop the whole week's firewood, make up and bake thy bread, and boil thy pork and beans, that thou wait not when thou returnest from thy long-tom weary. For in six days' labor only though canst do it in six months; and though, and thy morals and thy conscience, be none the better for it; but reproach thee, shouldst thou ever return with thy worn-out body to fireside.

V. Though shalt not think more of all thy gold, and how thou canst make it fastest, than how thou will enjoy it after thou hast ridden rough-shod over thy good old parents' precepts and examples, that thou mayest have nothing to reproach thee, when left ALONE in the land where thy father's blessing and thy mother's love hath sent thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill; neither thy body by working in the rain, even though thou shalt make enough to buy physic and attendance with; nor thy neighbor's body in a duel, or in anger, for by "keeping cool," thou canst save his life and thy conscience. Neither shalt thou destroy thyself by getting "tight," nor "stewed," nor "high," nor "corned," nor "half-seas over," nor "three sheets in the wind," by drinking smoothing down—"brandy slings," "gin cocktails," "whiskey punches," "rum toddies," nor "egg-noggs." Neither shalt thou suck "mint juleps," nor "sherry-cobblers," through a straw, nor gurgle from a bottle the "raw material," nor take "it straight" from a decanter; for, while thou art swallowing down thy purse, and the coat from off thy back thou art burning the coat from off thy stomach; and if thou couldst see the houses and lands, and gold dust, and home comforts already lying there—"a huge pile"—thou shouldst feel a choking in thy throat; and when to that thou addest thy crooked walkings thou wilt feel disgusted with thyself, and inquire "Is thy servant a dog that he doeth these things!" Verily, thou shalt say, "Farewell, old bottle, I will kiss thy gurgling lips no more; slings, cocktails, punches, smashes, cobblers, noggs, toddies, sangarees and juleps, forever farewell. Thy remembrance shames one; henceforth, I cut thy acquaintance, and headaches, tremblings, heart-burnings, blue devils, and all the unholy catalogue of evils that follow in thy train. My wife's smiles and my children's merry-hearted laugh, shall charm and reward me for having the manly firmness and courage to say NO. I

wish thee an eternal farewell."

VII. Thou shalt not grow discouraged, nor think of going home before thou hast made thy "pile," because thou hast not "struck a lead," nor found a "rich crevice," nor sunk a hole upon a "pocket," lest in going home thou shalt leave four dollars a day, and going to work, ashamed, at fifty cents, and serve thee right; for thou knowest by staying here, thou mightst strike a lead and fifty dollars a day, and keep thy manly self respect, and then go home with enough to make thyself and others happy.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal a pick, or a shovel, or a pan from thy fellow-miner; nor take away his tools without his leave; nor borrow those he cannot spare; nor return them broken, nor trouble him to fetch them back again, nor talk with him while his water rent is running on, nor remove his stake to enlarge thy claim, nor undermine his bank in following a lead, nor pan out gold from his "riffle box," nor wash the "tailings" from his sluice's mouth. Neither shalt thou pick out specimens from the company's pan to put them in thy mouth or pocket; nor cheat thy partner of his share; nor steal from thy cabin-mate his gold dust, to add to thine, for he will be sure to discover what thou hast done, and will straightaway call his fellow miners together, and if the law hinder them not, will hang thee, or give thy fifty lashes, or shave thy head and brand thee, like a horse thief, with "R" upon thy cheek, to be known and read of all men, Californians in particular.

IX. Thou shalt not tell any false tales about "good diggings in the mountains," to thy neighbor that thou mayest benefit a friend who had mules, and provisions, and tools and blankets he cannot sell,—lest in deceiving thy neighbor, when he returneth through the snow, with naught save his rifle, he present thee with the contents thereof, and like a dog, thou shalt fall down and die.

X. Thou shalt not commit unsuitable matrimony, nor covet "single blessedness;" nor forget absent maidens; nor neglect thy "first love;"—but thou shalt consider how faithfully and patiently she awaiteth thy return; yea and covereth each epistle that thou sendest with kisses of kindly welcome—until she hath thyself. Neither shalt thou covet thy neighbor's wife, nor trifle with the affections of his daughter; yet, if thy heart be free, and thou dost love and covet each other, thou shalt "pop the question" like a man.

A new Commandment give I unto thee—if thou has a wife and little ones, that thou lovest dearer than life,—that thou keep them continually before thee, to cheer and urge thee onward, until thou canst say, "I have enough—God bless them—I will return." Then from thy much-loved home, with open arms shall thy come forth to welcome thee, with weeping tears of unutterable joy that thou art come; then in the fullness of thy heart's gratitude, thou shalt kneel together before thy Heavenly Father, to thank him for thy safe return. AMEN—So mote it be.

#### FORTY-NINER.

These "commandments" were actually written in 1853 by James M. Hutchings (1818-1902), and first published in the Placerville Herald newspaper. This was the most popular of the hundreds of letter sheets published in the 1850-1870 era, and was so profitable for Mr. Hutchings that he was able to publish the successful Hutchings' California Magazine.

Be sure and see The California Historical Society's exhibit on Gold Rush letter sheets.

Gladys Hansen  
February 8, 2000

#### PROSPECTORS CACHE

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Felix Paydirt Gourmet Gold. Club member  
John Eggleston is taking orders for the 2 LB bag  
of Felix Paydirt. John orders a case of 10 bags at a  
time and receives one free bag which the club uses  
as a raffle item. The bags are \$45 (\$40+\$5 Shipping).

If you would like to order a bag or two,

Contact John at 635-0229

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Quartz epidote crystals hand dug from

the Fox Park area. Each crystal has been hand dug, polished and mounted in either a pair of earrings or as a necklace. Buy separately or buy them as an earring/necklace set. Assorted styles available. \$10-15. Call Louise Morrison 632-7895, Lmrr3964@aol.com

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For Sale: White's Metal Detector w/power pack and case.

Call Bob or Louise Morrison, 307-632-7895

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Center latch louvered tailgate. Fits late model Chevy or GMC, cost \$313, sell for \$150. Front mount receiver hitch. Fits most late model trucks & SUV's, half price, \$50.00

Call Francis Oline, 307-634-1133.

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Wanted: 1 1/2" Proline Highbanker/Dredge Combo

Call Dallas Lake at 307-214-5619

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LDMA Membership - sells for \$3500 at the gold shows - all that's needed is to get it transferred to your name \$2000(buyer pays \$400 transfer fee) or \$2400(Mike pays the fee).

Call Mike Hayes (307) 640-4378

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2" Proline Floating Dredge, \$750

Call Dallas Lake at 307-214-5619

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If you have items for sale, contact Peggy Stumpf at 307-632-9945 or email her at circlestar@Yahoo.com OR email Peter Somontes at psomontes@Yahoo.com to have your ad placed here. Your ad will also be on the Chapter website.

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**CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Bob Morrison

Vice President: Lee Beatty

Treasurer: Stan Lang

Secretary: Peggy Stumpf

Newsletter Editor: Peter Somontes

Claims Director: Lyle Shingleton

Prizes/Raffles: Bob Bruce & John Eggleston

Store: Ann Lang

Activity Chairman: Pat Gochnour

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday Feb 7, 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holiday Inn.

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday Mar 7, 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holiday Inn.

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday April 4, 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holiday Inn.

Chapter Meeting: Tuesday May 2, 7 p.m. Sandalwood's Restaurant, Holiday Inn.

Cheyenne Gem Show: May 20 - 21, Holiday Inn, Cheyenne

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### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

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Wyoming Geological Survey

[www.wsgs.uwyo.edu](http://www.wsgs.uwyo.edu)

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The Perth Mint of Australia

[www.perthmint.com](http://www.perthmint.com)

Click on 'Natural Gold Nuggets'  
then click on 'About Nuggets and  
Gold' for some interesting facts.

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Garmin GPS products go to

[www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com)

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Magellan GPS products go to [www.magellangps.com](http://www.magellangps.com)

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My website [www.geocities.com/psomontes/](http://www.geocities.com/psomontes/)

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Smoky Mountain Knife Works

[www.smokymountainknifeworks.com](http://www.smokymountainknifeworks.com)

[www.KnifeForASoldier.com](http://www.KnifeForASoldier.com)

Rocky Mountain National Park [www.nps.gov/romo/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/romo/index.htm)

USFS Cabin Rentals [www.fs.fed.us/recreation.reservations](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation.reservations)

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### CLUB STORE

Coffee mugs \$ 5.00

Green pocket T-shirt \$16.00

Other color pocket T-shirts \$10.00

No pocket T-shirt \$ 9.00

GPAA mesh caps \$ 7.50

Chapter caps \$12.00

Green gold pan \$10.00

Black gold pan \$ 8.00

Classifier \$10.00

Scoop \$ 7.00

1/2 oz. vial \$ .35 ea. or 3/\$1.00

1 oz. vial \$ .40 ea. or 3/\$1.00

Suction tweezers \$ .40

Snuffer bottle \$ 3.00

**KITS**

Black pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$15.00

Green pan, sand, vial, snuffer \$17.00