



Soundoff



Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.

Vol. 30, No. 2

Search with Care!

February 2003

The Moffat Road

Former "Hill" Route



"The Hill" (also called "Hell Hill") refers to the section of the original Moffat Railroad that made its arduous way up the mountainside and crossed the Continental Divide (called "Devil's Backbone") through Rollins Pass utilizing the 19th century Rollinsville and Middle Park Wagon Road. The Moffat Railroad is an example of how David H. Moffat, in spite of incredible financial hardships, realized his dream of driving a railroad line over "The Top of the World." Moffat began the line westward from Denver to Hot Sulphur Springs in April of 1903. It was constructed to provide access to the west side of a proposed 2.6-mile tunnel under Rollins Pass at the 9,960-foot level. The line was completed in just a little over two years in June of 1905. The route required the boring of 33 small tunnels on a 2% grade along South Boulder Creek and on a 4% grade over Rollins Pass. Although intended for three or four years' use, the "Over the Hill" route served as the main line until 1929, when the six-mile-long Moffat Tunnel was finally completed!

As late as the 1970s, you could drive the old route of the original Denver Northwestern & Pacific Railway through the Needle's Eye Tunnel using an auto tour self-guide published by the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. Then vandals destroyed part the Eye's ceiling and a rock slide closed it in 1979. The tunnel was repaired in 1987 but another slide closed it in 1990. Because of that closure, there is no longer a motorized route across Rollins Pass. You can still drive up either side to reach the Needle's Eye, but then you'll have to backtrack and go around to go up the other side, if you want to see most of the route.

The guide described 28 view points, starting at the junction of Highway 19 and Colorado FR 16 in Rollinsville, that were marked along the way with numbered signs (all of which have now been removed by thieves) to alert the traveler to look at a particular view. To start your tour, you set your trip meter at 00.0 at the Rollinsville junction. **Signpost #1** at 1.6 miles from the junction was for the view of "Giant's Ladder," where the levels of the railroad grade up the mountainside made up the "rungs." **Signpost #2**, at 2.4 miles, was

(Continued (See *Moffat* on page 3))

February Potluck Meeting

2nd Friday, February 14, 2003, 6:30 PM

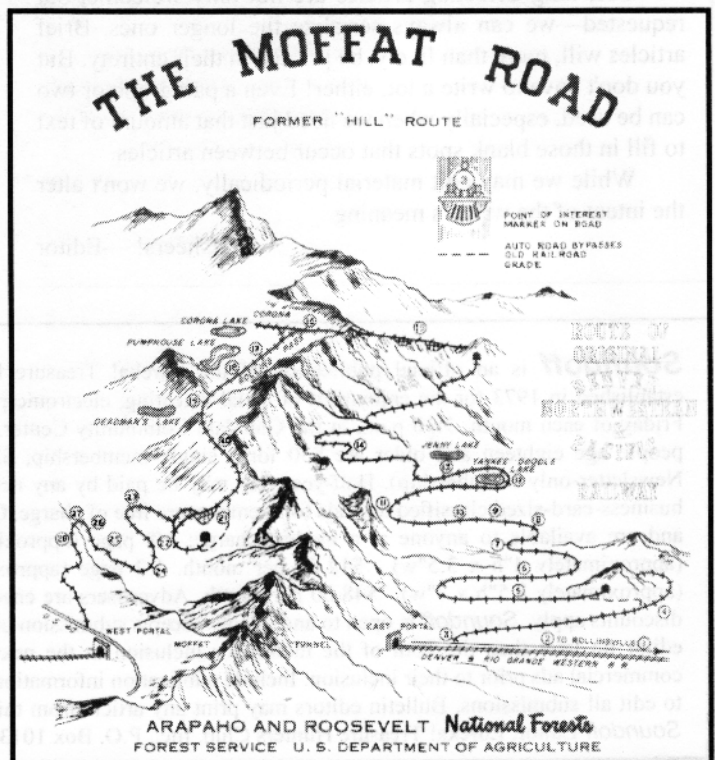
The Glendale Community Center

999 S. Clermont Street, Glendale, Colorado

Hotline: (303) 595-5448 <> www.geocities.com/Eureka-thc/

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A Slightly Different Look

With this issue, we're changing from Word to Publisher as our method of putting out your *Soundoff* newsletter. Publisher gives us a better handle on flowing stories throughout the newsletter as well as more precise placement of graphics and text areas.

It does, however, mean that we won't be sending the native document to those of you who have been receiving your news by e-mail. Rather, we'll be converting each newsletter to a Public Document Format (PDF) file for placement on our website, and notifying you when the newsletter is available for downloading, viewing, and printing (in glorious color, if you have a color printer).

We will also have on the website a link so that you may obtain the Adobe® Acrobat™ PDF Viewer, a free download.

Of course, we won't be publishing members' telephone numbers, addresses, or e-mails without explicit permission. Just look up the info in your current club member directory.

Good hunting! —Editor

Thank You!

As the new editor of your *Soundoff* newsletter, I take this opportunity to thank **Dean "Bumbie" Adams**, not only for his years of service to the club, but especially for his efforts in bringing Eureka! club members a quality newsletter written in his inimitable from-the-heart style.

I also thank **MiMi Pechon**, whose sugar pecans and pecan pralines enliven our meetings, for all she has done for the club, and especially for handling the publishing chores.

Naturally, I thank in advance those who are going to be contributing to the success of the 2003 *Soundoff*!

It is caring, dedicated volunteers of like caliber who keep this wonderful club zip-zipping along!

—Dick Oakes, Editor and Publisher

Request for Stories

Just as the club itself cannot function without each of its members pitching in to lend a hand where possible, so it is with the club's newsletter. We'd like to request that everyone who can, submit information for inclusion in *Soundoff*. We'd like to resurrect the "My Favorite Find" column, so be thinking of (and writing) yours!

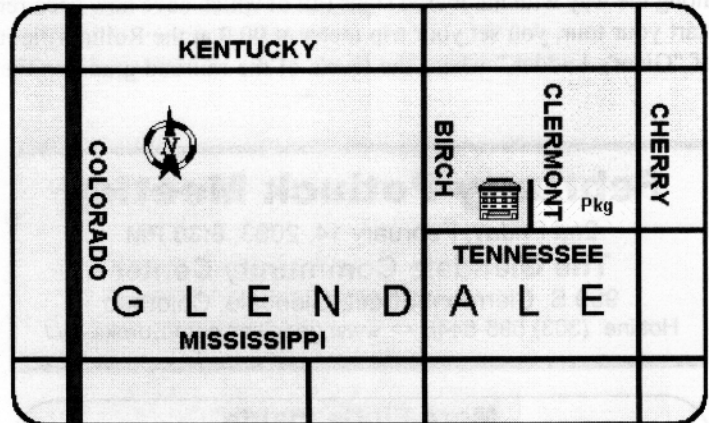
Yes, long detecting articles are not only welcome, but requested—we can always serialize the longer ones. Brief articles will, more than likely, be printed in their entirety. But you don't have to write a lot, either! Even a paragraph or two can be used, especially when we need just that amount of text to fill in those blank spots that occur between articles.

While we may edit material periodically, we won't alter the intent of the writer's meaning.

Cheers! —Editor

Membership Nametags

Be sure to wear your membership nametag at club meetings. It not only introduces you to your fellow Eureka! club members, but it is the entry "ticket" to the membership drawing at the end of each meeting. Lost your nametag? Please see **MiMi Pechon** at the next meeting. Fee for a replacement nametag is \$5.00.



Soundoff is an official publication of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc., a Denver-based, Colorado nonprofit organization established in 1973 for the enjoyment of metal detecting, electronic prospecting, and treasure hunting. Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Glendale Community Center, 999 S. Clermont St., Glendale, Colorado. Annual membership fees for people age eighteen and older are \$30 for a single membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$15 for a Junior Membership (or a Newsletter-only Membership). Half-year fees may be paid by any new member joining the club after the October meeting. Non-commercial business-card-sized classified text ads for members are free of charge. Commercial display ads must be detecting, prospecting, or treasure related and are available to anyone at a modest charge: 1/8 page (approximately 2" h x 3.5" w business card size) - \$6.00 per month. 1/4 page (approximately 4" h x 3.5" w) - \$12.00 per month. 1/2 page (approximately 4" h x 7" w or 8.5" h x 3.5" w) - \$24.00 per month. Full page (approximately 8.5" h x 7" w) - \$48.00 per month. Advertisers are encouraged to take out ads for 12 months for a 3-month discount. No other discounts apply. *Soundoff* is open to and gladly accepts submission of information and articles. All article submissions must be received by the editor no later than the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. The treasurer must receive any required payments for commercial ads prior to their inclusion. Include publication information on articles clipped from other publications. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Bulletin editors may print any article from this newsletter with credit given to the newsletter and the author. Contact: *Soundoff* Editor, Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc., P.O. Box 101385, Denver, CO 80250-1385. E-mail: soundoff0302@yahoo.com.

(Moffat - Continued from page 1)

Tolland Station (previously a stage stop and originally named Mammoth), the first tourist stop of the Moffat Railroad west of Denver). A mile from the East Portal of the Moffat Tunnel was **Signpost #3** at 4.8 miles, where the roadbed turned back and began its run up the mountainside. (Drive further west for a closer view of the tunnel.)

Continuing up the first grade, you came to **Signpost #4** at 7.4 miles. There you could park and walk up an old grade to the right to arrive at possibly the only square water tower still standing in the United States. Just beyond it, Tunnel 31 is completely caved in. At 8.0 miles, **Signpost #5** was where the 4% grade of the Rollins Pass Branch began.

The Ladora Overlook was indicated by **Signpost #6** at 9.3 miles. Ladora, a bustling railroad crew settlement from 1903 to 1904, served as an important railroad siding, one of five on "The Hill."

A tiny railroad settlement clinging to the mountainside at 9,905 feet was Antelope, where large numbers of railroad workers made their homes. The spot was indicated by **Signpost #7** at 10.0 miles. There are still ruins of a few small, crude, log cabins just below the road here.

Signpost #8 at 11.0 miles was where the 4% grade became too much for the brakes of Mallet engine 201 and a runaway train wreck occurred on the curve just above Antelope. Less than a mile further on at 11.9 miles, **Signpost #9** was where a mile-long narrow strip of deforested land was meant to prevent forest fires caused by the burning cinders from the locomotives. The cut trees were used to make snowsheds. A small, one-room, frame log structure, used by loggers, was situated where **Signpost #10** stood at 12.3 miles. At 13.0 miles, **Signpost #11** was set at 10,990 feet to indicate the turn-around point called Spruce Wye. Tin cans and other debris found at the wye accumulated from use of a two-story building that housed telegraph operators, section men, and snowplow crews.

A much advertised popular and scenic spot was Yankee Doodle Lake at 14.7 miles, indicated by **Signpost #12**. The tailings pile extending into the lake is the result of an aborted 2,000-foot tunneling effort in 1879 and 1880. Remnants of cabins may still be seen here. Up the road, **Signpost #13** at 15.5 miles was the Dixie Siding below man-made Jenny Lake, the highest water stop on the line before the final four-mile, 800-foot climb to "The Top of the World." On a stalled train during a storm on November 2, 1905, a brakeman assisted a mother giving birth to a baby whose name became Jenny Lake Miller.

Signpost #14 at 17.0 miles was for Tunnel No. 32 west of Denver called Needle's Eye because, on the skyline, the tunnel at the end of a straight stretch of railroad resembled a needle and its eye. Because of the collapse and closure of the Needle's Eye by the Forest Service, this is where you must turn your vehicle around and head back down the mountainside.

Read the second installment next month!

February Potluck

Annual Potluck Feast Starts at 6:30 PM

This is the big one, folks—don't miss it! It's our Annual Potluck Feast starting EARLY at 6:30 PM. And that's Potluck, not Potlatch, so be sure to bring a food dish or two to share with your fellow detectorists, significant others, and children!

It will be a special evening! Why? Because following the dining will be the installation of new officers you elected at the December meeting.

But wait, there's more! The Coin, Token, Artifact, and Jewelry Find-of-the-Year winners for whom you voted at the January meeting will be revealed!

But wait, there's even more! Special award presentations will include the Dan Sprouse Memorial Award, the Gene Kotlan Award, and the Charles A. Johnston Award!

The Dan Sprouse Memorial Award, also known as the President's Award, will be presented by the president to the club member he feels helped him most during the preceding year.

The Gene Kotlan Award was selected by the members at the December club meeting to be presented to the club member who has contributed the most for the good of the club during the preceding year. The name of the winner has secretly been kept in an empty mayonnaise jar on the porch of Funk & Wagnalls for two months!

The Charles A. Johnston Award, also known as the Member of the Year Award, was chosen at the January meeting of outgoing board members to be presented to the non-board club member who has persistently and unselfishly volunteered time, materials, and services to the club during the past year.

So, there you have it folks! If you can only get to one meeting in 2003, make it this one. Come have a great time with your fellow hobbyists, dine in pleasant company in a beautiful setting—okay, it's a firehouse meeting room—with delicious comestibles prepared by your friends, be surprised by whomsoever receives the coveted annual awards, and, who knows, possibly win a prize!

Search with care and see you there!

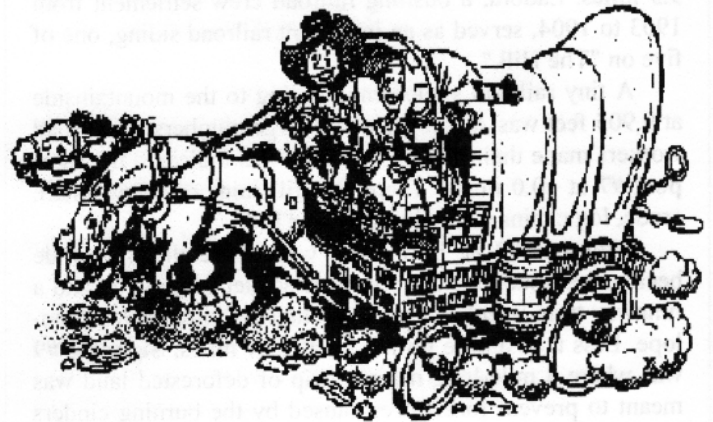
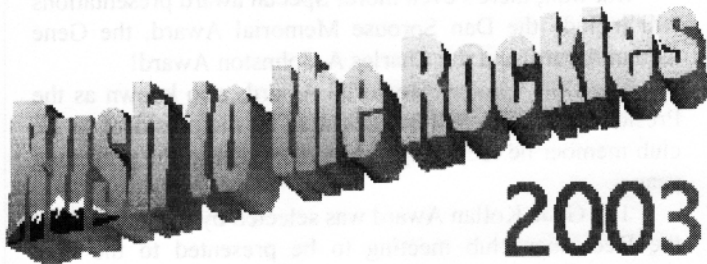
Corona Pass near Ames Peak was the most hazardous railroad pass in the country. The old Moffat Railroad budgeted 40 percent of its expenses for snow removal. It was also a popular Native American trail. The Native Americans, having no budget for snow removal, used it only in July and August.

Found on a bag of Fritos:
You could be a winner! No purchase necessary.
Details inside.

Upcoming Eureka! Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
14 Feb 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club Meeting	POTLUCK and AWARDS night starts EARLY at 6:30 PM.
23 Feb 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Penny For Your Thoughts In-Town Hunt	Huntmaster Jeff Lubbert puts on a good'un (details on page 6).
14 Mar 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club Meeting	Our speaker is yet to be determined -- call the Hotline for info.
Mar 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> March Monthly In-Town Hunt	Still need a Huntmaster; contact Cliff McGaughey to volunteer.
20-22 Jun 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Rush to the Rockies 2003 National Hunt	Pickle Gulch Campground near Black Hawk/Central City, Colo.

RUSH TO THE ROCKIES, JUNE 20-22, 2003



The Eureka! Club's National Open Hunt

See the club's website (<http://www.geocities.com/Eureka-thc/>) for hunt schedule, entry form, maps, and other information about our National Hunt, or send us a note and we'll mail it to you!

Reserve early! This hunt is limited to 150 entrants!

Sell Your Silver!

by Joe Carter

Eureka! is offering to buy those silver coins you've been hoarding for the last umpteen years! As of 1 January 2003, the club pays coin dealers the following to purchase silver coinage to use for its hunts:



- Silver Dollar \$8.00
- Silver Round..... \$6.00
- W/Liberty 1/2 \$2.75
- Franklin Kennedy 1/2 \$1.75
- Washington Quarter \$0.90
- Mercury Dime \$0.45
- Roosevelt Dime \$0.35

As an added benefit, club members can pay their fees for the Rush to the Rockies hunt at anytime before the cutoff date with silver coins at the same price that we purchase silver from the coin shops. For example:

- 458 silver Roosevelt dimes X \$0.35 = \$160.30 and pays your R2R hunt fee for both days with .30 cents change.
- 356 silver Mercury dimes X \$0.45 = \$160.20 and pays your R2R hunt fee for both days with .20 cents change.

Eureka! will accept any combination of silver coins at the exchange rate that will cover the total cost of the hunt fees and can purchase your coins as long as the club has a large enough checking account reserve.

If you have questions, please contact Jeff Lubbert, Ron Erickson, or any club board member.

PASSING SCHOOL ZONE

TAKE IT SLOW

LET OUR LITTLE

SHAVERS GROW

Burma Shave

Meetings of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club

General Meeting

Friday, January 10, 2003

by Doug Cohn

We had three guests and a total of 46 people at our meeting on Jan. 10th. The speaker was **Jeff Lubbert** with some help from others about their adventures in the Cancun area of Mexico detecting the beaches. He shared some tips on international travel: Take your detector along, pack it well, and have it as your carry-on. Even with the tight security at airports, the guards cause no trouble.

In Mexico consider these beach-hunting observations: The people who patronize resorts that are all inclusive do not have much money, but do have jewelry. The people who frequent public beaches have more money, but less jewelry. Go at low tide early in the morning at sunup. Take a water machine and a long-handled scoop. Look for rips in the beach area where the rip tides dig out and rearrange the sand. The bottoms of the rip areas are the best.

Our most able treasurer, **Nancy Carter**, reported on the state of the treasury and about the registrations for our national hunt: we have 34 pre-registrations for the big Rush to the Rockies hunt this summer.

Cliff McGaughey reported the snow hunt in December was great fun even without any snow. Cliff also led the January hunt (see the write-up elsewhere in this issue). **Jeff Lubbert** will coordinate the February hunt. A coordinator is needed for March.

The February meeting is our annual potluck. It begins at 6:30 PM with dinner. We all bring the food and the club supplies drinks and utensils.

The ad-hoc Bylaws Update Committee has not met yet. They are looking at a change that would allow members who could not come to the meeting to vote in the elections by proxy or by computer.

WORDS OF CAUTION FOR ALL OF US THIS WINTER: The local drought has made the grass in the parks dry and brown and some detectorists are making the ground look like the surface of the moon. Fill every hole every time. If you find a hole dug by someone else, fill it too. Bring a jug of water to water any hole and plug you dig. Stay away from torn up places. Give out Eureka! cards to those you see detecting and encourage them to be as responsible as our club members are. Many of us are worried that all the parks may become closed to metal detectorists. If we allow others to destroy our parks, we will only make sure that this happens.

Gary and Ada Keim brought the snacks and provided most excellent fare for those present.

The Prez Sez

by Jeff Lubbert

Research is going to be the key to this summer's hunts. The way things are shaping up because of the drought, there may be little or no park or school hunting this summer. With the closure of the Denver parks to organized sports and several of the Denver public golf courses for the next few months, there will undoubtedly be temporary but heavy restrictions on public land usage. Plus now there is talk of closing the Denver Public School grounds to all activities except those relating to school functions. This drought is going to have a great effect on what we can do for detecting this summer within the city limits of Denver.

I hope that our club members will refrain from digging plugs in the parks till we get a fair amount of precipitation. This doesn't mean I am asking you to stop detecting. I would also hope that we can clean up the surface targets and leave the deeper targets till we get some moisture in the ground. There are some areas around town that deeper targets can be taken with little or no effect: dirt playgrounds, construction sites, and such. With a little research you will be able to locate these sites and hope that nobody has gotten there before you.

For me, more than likely, most of my hunting will be taking place outside Denver. I have a good deal of research for several places started and will be digging up more information on these sites and others as our "winter" goes along. So far this year I would estimate that I have spent about three or four times the hours researching as I have detecting, and probably about the same amount of time scouting out locations as well.

The January In-Town Hunt was a fine beginning for some people this year; they will have a good head start over those who didn't show up. For others it was just another one of those times we spent with our noses in a book or map, or doing some other form of research. Heck some of us were there till the place closed for the day (see story on page 10).

The upcoming season will be a test for all detectorists in the area but with some research, persistence, and of course a dash of luck, it could be a good year no matter what kind of detecting you like to do.



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, January 10, 2003

A short board meeting of past board directors was held to vote for the 2002 Charles A. Johnston Award recipient.

FINDS OF THE MONTH

for January 2003
Winners are listed.

GOLD CATEGORY

John Steele.....gold and diamond ring
Nancy Carter.....10k black onyx ring
Bryan Macheel.....10k baby ring
Fred Warner.....10k white and yellow ring

JEWELRY CATEGORY

Cliff McGaughey.....14k sterling tiger-eye ring
Ada Keim.....silver and turquoise ring
Bob Ciencin.....1989 antique clock ring
John Steele.....silver ring
John Steele.....silver ring

COIN CATEGORY

Cliff McGaughey.....1893-D Barber quarter
Nancy Carter.....novelty penny coin
Eldon Smith.....1917 wheat penny
Bernie Wells.....1934-S half dollar

TOKEN CATEGORY

Carl Johannesen.....Mentor Clothing Logo

ARTIFACT CATEGORY

Cliff McGaughey.....Civil War metal Guard button
John Steele.....oil glass

GOLD DRAWING

Nicholas Warren.....Nigger

CHRISTMAS FUND DRAWING

Cliff McGaughey.....Silver Round

GENERAL DRAWINGS

John Steele.....1882 silver dollar
Bryan Macheel.....10th oz. gold coin
John Steele.....10th oz. gold coin
Bryan Macheel.....1981 silver dollar
Jerry Cass.....1833 bust half dollar
Gary Keim.....1890 seated dime
Ada Keim.....10th oz. gold coin
Carl Johannesen.....1983 V nickel
Marilyn Weideman.....1980 silver dollar
Mark Man.....1980 flying eagle cent

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Eldon Smith.....1973 Proof set

Denny For Your Thoughts

Member/Guest February In-Town Hunt
Jeff Lubbert, Huntmaster

**AN UNUSUAL HUNT THAT WILL
HELP YOU GAIN KNOWLEDGE**

It's a Treasure Hunt

It's a Game Show

February 23, 2003 -- 1:00 PM

Parfet Park, Golden

Because of Valentine's Day, the February hunt will take place the following weekend. The hunt will be at Parfet Park, **10th and Washington**, in Golden. Then the festivities and awarding will be held upstairs at the Gold-N-Detectors World Headquarters. Entry fee will be **\$5.00**. There's plenty of parking in back of Gold-N-Detectors, which is closer to the hunt-end festivities! Pick up a flyer at the meeting.

Eureka! 2003 Officers and Board

President..... Jeff Lubbert
Vice President..... Ron Erickson
Secretary..... Matt Williams
Treasurer..... Nancy Carter
Newsletter Editor..... Dick Oakes
Board (2-years)..... John Brewer
Board (2 years)..... Bill Chapman
Board (2 years)..... Joe Carter
Board (1 year)..... Bryan Macheel
Board (1 year)..... MiMi Pechon
Board (1 year)..... Jim Wojciechowski
Mascot..... Chelsea Chapman

Coordinators and Volunteers

Bylaws Update (Ad-Hoc)..... Cliff McGaughey
Drawings Table..... Bob Ciencin/Bryan Macheel
Finds Table..... Eldon Smith
Historian.....
Hunts..... Cliff McGaughey
Historical Artifact Recovery Team..... Jeff Lubbert
Monthly Speakers..... Ron Erickson
Nametags..... MiMi Pechon
New Member/Guest Orientation..... Ron Erickson
Physical Evidence Recovery Team..... Joe Carter
Publishers..... Dick Oakes/MiMi Pechon
Website..... Dick Oakes

FILL EVERY HOLE, EVERY TIME!

High School Ring Found

by Charlotte Steele

After **John Steele**, my husband, retired from the Air Force last May, he spent the summer metal detecting. One evening John returned from a busy day detecting at Del Mar Park with an unusual ring. Unusual, because instead of a gold or silver or gem-incrusted ring, John had a large nickel or steel ring with an incredible amount of information. The clues from that the ring led us to a fascinating story!

The bezel bore the initials "TSSAA" and "State Football Championship." Inside, we could read "K. Young" and "1980." Very intrigued, I searched on the Internet and quickly discovered the web site of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. In the "Contact Us" box, I typed the information from the ring and explained that my treasure-hunting husband hoped to return the ring to the owner.

In a few days, we received a reply. TSSAA advised us that the man who coached the winning team in 1980 was still at the same high school and provided his name and phone number. John called "Coach" and learned that the ring belonged to **Keith Young**. Coach had talked with Keith earlier in the summer and Coach agreed to pass on John's name and phone number.

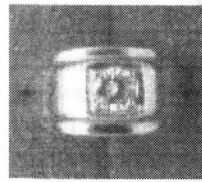
Months went by and we thought we would never hear from Keith. Then one evening, the phone rang during dinner time in late November. But instead of the usual annoying telemarketer, the caller was Keith Young! John and Keith talked for several minutes. Keith lives in Virginia and was amazed to learn that John found the ring in a suburban Denver park. He had lost the ring once and then recovered it, but when it disappeared the second time, Keith thought it had been taken during a burglary. Keith gladly provided his address and we mailed the ring.

Today we received a letter from Keith: "Dear John, I wanted to thank you for sending my High School Football Ring back to me. I had written it off a long time ago. The ring means a lot to me. It holds many memories. We were Tennessee's State Champ that year!! The last time I saw the ring was 1985 in Denver. We went skiing in Vail. It seems strange that it turns up after all these years. Not many people would have gone to the trouble you did. That says a lot about how you were raised. Once again, thank you!"

John's display case of rings has many items of greater value than that TSSAA ring, but returning it led him to a true treasure—a new friend.

Diamond Ring Found

by Louis J. Janak



The photo is of a man's .88 karat diamond ring that originally belonged to **Donald J. Reibold**, and which was given to him for 25 years of service to the Time D.C. Trucking Company, better known to Denverites as Denver-Chicago Trucking. D.C. Trucking was

located in North Denver and later transferred to Portland, Oregon. The ring was given to me, **Louis J. Janak**, upon the death of my uncle in December of 2000.

On August 24, 2002, at a Human Rights Campaign kickoff for the Colorado Jefferson County Democrats, the ring, which I was wearing on my "pinkie" finger, was inadvertently lost while I was applauding candidates and their campaign speeches. It was lost in a newly sodded lawn in Wheat Ridge. Numerous attempts had been made to retrieve the ring but to no avail. Ultimately, heartbroken at its loss, I had just about given up all hope of finding it.

After he heard of the loss from a friend on January 7, 2003, **John Steele** called me and volunteered to look for the ring using his most accurate metal detection devices. He meticulously searched the front yard and had all but completed the back yard when voilà, there was the sound of "Gold" in John's headset! He stooped over and nimbly parted the parched blades of brown winter grass and subtly asked the question "Is this what you were looking for?"

I was overwhelmed with joy and could not hold back the tears. What had been lost and thought gone forever was found! I asked John what I owed him for finding this priceless personal object and he indicated that he was just happy to have been able to assist. He did request, however, that I have a picture taken of the ring that he could submit as proof of the find and I have written this testimonial as to the accuracy of the search and the recovery of my family treasure, keepsake, and heirloom.

Incidentally, the ring is valued at approximately \$5,000.00 because of its age and the European cut diamond.

I can only say with heartfelt thanks that John is a fine and representative example of human kindness, decency, and dignity. He found something for someone he had never met before that day. I certainly appreciate his every effort and have no way to repay him for his debt of human kindness.

Respectfully submitted to the Fellow Members of
Eureka!

Have You Found a Class Ring?

If you'd like to find to whom a class ring belongs, there is a company that may be able to help: Jostens Class Ring Co., 5501 Norman Center Dr., Minneapolis, MN 55437-1088; 800-962-9092; fax 612-897-4110; <http://www.jostens.com/> (fill out their e-mail form). Although Jostens' records only go back four years, they know about most rings and can help reunite ring and owner.

Lost and Found: The Final Chapter

By Cliff McGaughey

It's funny how sometimes when you procrastinate it works out for the best. More than a couple of years ago while hunting a rural High School/Middle School Football field I retrieved a class ring. A Class of 1982 women's ring from the very school I was hunting. I had every intention of finding the owner but hey, time flies when you're bagging loot!

In November of 2002 I decided to devote a Monday to the process of discovering the long lost owner of the ring. I had procrastinated doing this as I had anticipated it being a tremendous amount of work. With my able bodied assistant researcher, expert ring retriever, and main squeeze **MiMi Pechon**, we trekked North to the school's library. The events that followed were just about mystical.

The librarian located the school's yearbook from 1982. MiMi and I perused the senior class girls pages looking for any name the initials A.D would fit. An Alice, last name Deleon, was the only girl in the small class and so we had a name. MiMi inquired of the librarian if there were an alumni association for the school. We were directed to the main office and so the hunt began.

The main office worker, interrupted several times by boisterous high school girls, admitted no knowledge of the alumni association or the name. She did however direct us to the administration building for the district. As it just so happened, it was only across the parking lot. A brief interview with the party in charge of the reception desk left us with the knowledge that the regular receptionist was out for the day. The substitute did however recognize the name Deleon and said she knew a woman by that name worked at a school across town. It was about ten minutes to three as we drove out of the parking lot headed to the other school. This was an important coincidence.

We checked in at the office right at 3:00 PM about the name Deleon. A reluctant secretary finally divulged a bus driver with that last name was loading children in preparation to leave at any moment. I began to smell victory, but it was probably just the many kids running to their appointed transport.

We inquired of the first approached yellow vehicle for a driver with the name in question and were directed to the last bus in the row. The bus was located by the assistance of several diminutive people who pointed and shouted "Purple Turtle Bus."

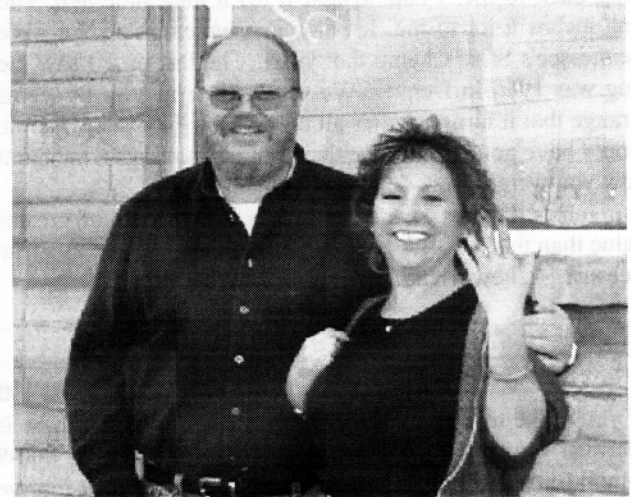
MiMi approached the gaping door as the last of the children were finding seats and inquired after the name Deleon. The driver indeed possessed the name but alas was not named Alice. She did however have a cousin whose maiden name was Deleon. She reflected and gave MiMi the married name and a couple of references we later would use

in the pursuit of Alice.

We checked the phone book for the married name and as I called I had no idea the name Alice was an alias. The elderly gentleman who answered the dialed number was perturbed and admitted no knowledge of any "Alice." We cruised the main drag and checked in with a local REALTOR. It was purported the "Alice" owned a local office. After discovering the office had a new hire, one day on the job and without possession of any knowledge whatsoever, we elected to do plan B. We drove to the town of Dacono and looked for a grocery store with the name mentioned by the "Purple Turtle" driver.

Dacono consists of a lot of homes, but there wasn't much in the way of a business district. We rejected the only grocery store in sight, as the name was incorrect. I was all for calling it a day and hitting the highway for home. MiMi insisted we inquire at the last gas stop on the way out of town. The operator of the local Conoco quick-stop reported the name we were searching for, Rotterman was the name of the owner of the grocery store we had just passed. As we entered the store I noticed the only two clerks checking were busy. We waited at the video counter and discussed the hunt to this point. As I glanced at the assemblage of Jean Claude Van Damme and Rita Hayworth videos, a woman approached the counter. As I looked up and attempted to form an inquiry MiMi blurted out, "You're her, Alice Deleon!" I looked at the blonde woman and I too saw the resemblance. The twenty years since high school had been good to Alice.

As MiMi took over the inquiry, I dug in my pocket and retrieved the found ring. MiMi's inquiry had alerted us to the true name and nature of the woman which we had found. **Alicia Deleon** had used the name Alice in school. Hence the difference that had caused the confusion on the phone with the elderly gentleman whom she advised was her grandfather. She was stunned as I offered the ring and said I have something you lost and which I am duty bound to return. She slipped it on her finger and admitted she had



worn it through high school but couldn't remember losing it. I divulged the spot I had retrieved it and she laughed as she admitted to spending some time under the bleachers.

The postscript to this event was in the knowledge she offered when we returned a week later to photograph her and the ring. This was the Monday after Thanksgiving and she admitted to taking a ribbing from her daughter, a recent graduate of this same high school. Her mother it seems was very happy that the lost ring was returned, as were several of her siblings who attended the feast at her house. Alicia, alias Alice Deleon, was one of seven children. She was the only one to graduate from high school in her family, which was rather poor. Her sisters, in the spirit of sisterly pride, had pitched in the price of the ring and were justifiably proud of their little sis and her accomplishment. She had gone on to further educational pursuits and had done well for herself.

The events that allowed the return were mystical. The timing of the bus driver preparing to leave and MiMi recognizing "Alice" proceeded to make the real fun in this hunt more than recovering a low-value ring. The return was an invaluable boosting of our spirits and the knowledge the ring had a priceless value to a young girl from Ft. Lupton, Colorado, who had followed her dreams to a better life.

Guessing the Virtual Quarters

At the December Eureka! meeting, **Cliff McGaughey** had a "guess the number of quarters in the jar" contest. The prize was Robert L. Brown's paperback book *Ghost Towns of the Colorado Rockies*. The winner was your editor, **Dick Oakes**, with a guess of **486**, which matched the number exactly (the first time Cliff had seen that!). But, on receiving the prize, Dick said he thought he already had the book.

Terry Weatherly and **Joyce Keith** spoke up, saying they'd sure like to have Cliff's book. After checking at home, and finding that he had the same book in hardcover, Dick held a virtual auction online with Terry and Joyce to have them give their virtual guess of the number of virtual quarters (between 1 and 500, inclusive) in the virtual jar of which he was thinking.

The winner, announced at the January meeting, was Joyce with the closest guess of **363** to the virtual number of, you guessed it, **486**! Terry, as runner up with a guess of **251**, was given another book, of which Dick had two copies, H. Glenn Carson's great paperback *Hunting the Ghost Towns*.

Dean's Doodles

by Dean Adams

We complete the thirtieth year of our club's existence with our annual potluck and awards presentation meeting in February. You'll be missing a great event if you can't make this one. Potluck at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting. We are all anxious to hear who the winners of the "valuable member" awards and the finds-of-the-year awards will be.

The Gene Kotlan award was named in honor of one of the original founders of the Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club in February 1973. He was a local metal detector dealer who sponsored the initiation of the club. The winner is selected by general membership secret ballot at the preceding December club meeting.

The Dan Sprouse Award (also known as the President's Award) is named after an enthusiastic early Eureka! Club member and president for two terms.

The Charles A. Johnston Award (also known as the Member of the Year Award) was named in honor of one of the organizers of our club who shared his interest in history by involving the club with various historical society searches. This interest was instilled into his wife Josie, a life member, and his sons, Joe, a former club president and member Warren, who have been active members and participants for many years.

We thank Ed Fedory for his kind words in the March 2003 issue of *Western & Eastern Treasures* magazine regarding the Eureka! club, Colorado, and his experiences at our Rush to the Rockies 2002 national hunt. In an accompanying photo, he is shown with his relic hunter and a silver round he found at the R2R hunt.

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL?



Occasionally, we notify folks by e-mail of last-minute events, hunts, happenings, and other reminders (such as snow closures) because we cannot telephone all our members. So, members, make sure we have your e-mail address by sending it (along with your name) to soundoff0302@yahoo.com. Remember, your e-mail address will not be sold or given to anyone outside of the club.

—Editor

Happy February Birthday



Dean Adams, Kay Adams, Larry Boyes, Joe Carter, Cassie Ford, Ralph Pendell, Rosemary Pendell, Roger Petrella, Marlin Weideman.

The town of Corona, built in 1901, was on top the Continental Divide. At 11,600 feet it was the highest known railroad station. When the Moffat Tunnel was completed in 1928, it became the highest forgotten railroad station.

January In-Town Hunt

It was a beautiful day for a hunt for elusive treasures. Each member brought his or her favorite detecting tool and ancillary equipment for this once-a-year hunt, ably put on by Gaelic huntmaster **Cliff McGaughey** and his intrepid assistants, **Jeff Lubbert** and **MiMi Pechon**. The bright January sun shown on the hunt group as **Dick Oakes** snapped off a shot with his digital camera. All there prepared, each in his own way, to begin the search. Voices became increasingly excited as the pre-hunt hike time approached. At the stroke of one o'clock, Cliff ushered the eager participants to the hunt area.

The scramble was on, with **Bryan Macheel** in the lead, followed closely by **Joe and Nancy Carter**. **Floyd and Terry Swoboda**, along with **Roy Neys** and **Bernie Watts**, streamed to the hunt area to receive the final hunt instructions. **Joyce Keith** hastily jotted down notes as hunt area anomalies were described. **John Littrell and his daughter Sasha** listened intently as the best areas to start searching were given. The rewards for success were piles of silver coins, and no one, least of all **Roger Petrella**, wanted to miss out for the final reckoning when the hunt-ending bell was figuratively rung.

Then it was "time to search," the go-ahead was given, the impatient searchers scattered to the south, east, and west, and the hunt was underway! Well, to make a short story long, everyone, including new members, **Mary Ann Sweikart** and **Pete O'Biso**, were happy to walk away with silver! Included in the loot was a silver dollar garnered by Cliff himself. Each of the duo of Swoboda and Swoboda palmed shiny silver quarters, as did Brian and Terry.

The dedicated detectorists were all there at the end to have their group picture taken by photographer MiMi (who is not in the photo). All members who attended were awarded two silver dimes for their participation in Cliff's hotel search project, which was the vehicle used to get everyone started in Cliff's annual January Denver Public Library Hunt! A reminder from Cliff: Do not go to the hunt area ahead of time; the research will be put to good use later this spring/summer for a club hunt of the hotel site.

January Treasure Hunt Participants



Left to right:

Bernie Watts (in front), Sasha Littrell, John Littrell, Floyd Swoboda, Terry Swoboda, Roger Petrella, Joe Carter, Nancy Carter, Jeff Lubbert (in back), Roy Neys, Joyce Keith, Dick Oakes (in front), Terry Weatherly, Cliff McGaughey, Bryan Macheel, Mary Ann Sweikart (in front), Pete Sweikart.

Not shown: MiMi Pechon, photographer

From the Archives

Soundoff, January 1996

"As of January 1, 1996, our club's new name is 'Eureka Metal Detecting Club, Inc.' The new name was adopted by club vote in late 1995." Really?

Immediate past newsletter editor **Dean Adams** replied, "We called ourselves Eureka Metal Detecting Club in January and February of 1996. I remember about the end of '95 the words "Treasure Hunter" meant to the uninformed to be looters and people looking for actual buried treasure, gold strong boxes, and the like. The world got over it, however. About the time **Mike Stansbery** took over from **Kelly Woodring** as newsletter editor, Mike went back to "Treasure Hunters Club" when the board put the idea on hold because of the nonprofit thing."

Mike Stansbery also wrote, "Yep, it was an incorporation thing. Though the club did vote to approve the name change, the problems of getting the name changed in our articles of incorporation made the board finally decide not to file for a name change. As I recall, it was primarily board members who had pushed for the name change in the first place, so the membership was not unhappy with the decision. To my knowledge, the exclamation point has always been used in the official club name." Hey, if you don't ask . . .

(Continued from Librarian page 12)

one which any avid reader of Colorado history will find mesmerizing; with historical facts and locations that will especially focus the attention of any relic hunters in our midst. These 280 pages draw on fragments of reports, legends, newspaper accounts, the journals and correspondence of settlers, explorers, and military men, as well as the writings of the Cheyenne historian **George Bent**. The result is a series of interesting, interwoven stories fleshed out with enough names, dates, locations, and directions to fill a lifetime of relic and coin hunting expeditions. Of note is the story of American Ranch, and the massacre of the Hungate family, which our own member **Jeff Broome** has located and hunted, and of which he spoke so eloquently and passionately at a past Eureka! club presentation. Is it possible that Jeff missed something? Is it possible that this book will reveal clues to additional great detecting finds? I guess you will have to read it to see.

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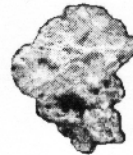
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FIRST CLASS



The Librarian Speaks -- Arf!

by John Brewer

As you all know, the Eureka! club has developed a pretty decent collection of books and magazines for its library shelves. Over the years, these resources have been displayed at club meetings for browsing and checking out. In an effort to make this club asset more useful and visible to the members, I will be writing a monthly review of one interesting book. The book reviewed will be available for check-out at the following meeting.

BOOK REVIEW: *Destinations: Denver City, The South Platte Trail*, by Doris Monahan

The writer has created the best of both worlds in an enjoyable and well researched book. The story of the South Platte Trail is

(Continued on page 10)

Eureka! Writer To Be Quoted on Minin' Gold

Submitted by Dean Adams

I found a super nugget shooting article by **John Brewer** in your June 2001 newsletter. The article is "Nugget Shooting - Tips and Stories from the California Gold Hills." I would like permission from you and/or **John Brewer** to use the article on my web site. I would just link to it but folks would have to scroll way down the page to find it. I would of course give proper credit to John and your club. I would also include a link to your club's web site in the credit and on my club's page.

Minin' Gold (<http://mininggold.com/>) is a totally non-commercial site dedicated to providing information to gold prospectors, especially newbies.

Thanx, **Bill Westcott**

Of course Dean said, "Do it!" —Editor