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Vol. 7, Issue 3 - April 2012

The Marshall-Martinek Team



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Colorado
Realtor**

Equal Housing
Opportunity



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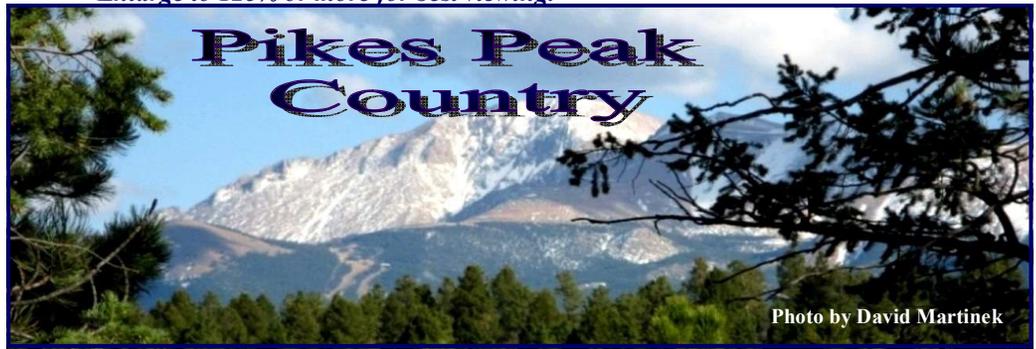


Photo by David Martinek

Cripple Creek Gold - how it is mined

The Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company (CC&V), a division of the Anglo Gold Ashanti Corporation, has been extracting gold and other precious metals in the ore-rich area between Cripple Creek and Victor, Colorado since 1976. Their current mining activity, started in 1994, is a 24-hour, 7-day a week operation every day of the year and involves open pit activities known as the Cresson Project. In recent years, the company has extracted approximately 240,000 ounces or more of gold annually, including a small but significant percentage of silver.

Open pit mining (or strip mining) is not a pretty sight. And the changes to the landscape caused by such methods can produce emotional reactions from both public and political sectors. The other side of the coin, of course, is that Colorado is a mining state, and a significant portion of state and local revenues come from the mining industry. Even so, the steps required to locate the ore, mine it, extract the metals and recover the land involve a series of long and extended processes. It starts with planning and studies to assess and evaluate the environmental impact of the intended mining operations. These plans are reviewed and approved by federal, state and local agencies before a permit is ever granted to begin mining activities.

The life cycle for modern-day open pit mining starts with removal of the vegetation and topsoil over the mining area. Logging



The open pit of the Cresson Project, the center of the current CC&V mining operations. Drilling rigs for blasting can be seen in the left floor of the pit. The layered rock ledges and a portion of the Valley Leach Facility (VLF) can be seen surrounding the pit. (all photos in this issue are by David Martinek)

operations, if required, are begun, or in less heavily treed areas the trees are stacked for firewood and smaller trees are transplanted. The topsoil is removed and stored until it can be used during the land reclamation step.

The actual mining operations include controlled blasting, hauling, crushing, leaching and processing to recover the precious metals (that process is discussed in detail a few paragraphs below). Rock which

does not contain ore (called "overburden rock") is stored in designated locations and is used later for backfilling mined-out areas according to reclamation plans.

Once an area is mined out and backfilled, it is graded to specific contours and the stored topsoil replaced. Fertilizer and other additives are mixed with the topsoil to provide a good seedbed. Then the area is replanted with a mix of grasses, shrubs and small trees that thrive in the Pikes Peak region. The last step in the reclamation plan requires several years of monitoring to insure that the post-mined land is re-established and available for public or private use.

The mining operations of CC&V covers several thousand acres in the "district" between Cripple Creek and Victor. The Cresson pit, the central focus of the current mining activity, descends several hundred feet below the surface ringed by layered rock ledges and leaching mounds. Controlled blasting is done by drilling a series of 40-foot holes about 16 to 22 feet apart in the pit floor. The explosion breaks the rock and minimizes movement and ground vibrations.



Shovels dig the blasted rock and load it into haulers

The broken rock is then surveyed for ore content and mucked (or loaded) into haul trucks to be transported to either a crusher (for ore-bearing rock) or to a storage area for overburdened rock. The haul trucks come in a range (continued on page 2)

See past issues of Pikes Peak Country at <http://www.davidmartinekc.com>

Cripple Creek Gold - continued from page 1

of sizes according to their load-bearing capacity. The largest truck, basically a dump truck the size of a two-story house, is capable of hauling up to 300 tons of rock.

The ore-bearing rock is dumped into a primary crusher, a vertical system capable of processing nearly 2900 tons of ore per hour (approximately 50 tons a minute). Magnets stationed throughout the system attract metal left over from old under-



The haulers dump the ore-bearing rock into the primary crusher, a vertical gyrating system capable of crushing 50 tons of rock per minute into 6-inch diameter or smaller pieces.

ground mining operations to protect the equipment. The gyrating crusher breaks the rock into six inch or smaller pieces which are then conveyed to a secondary screening crusher.

The secondary crusher sorts the rock and refines it even further, down into 3/4 inches in size or smaller pieces. Lime is added to the pebble-sized rock to elevate the PH and enhance the effectiveness of the leaching solution. The ore is then conveyed to a large bin where haul trucks gather the ore and deliver it to the leaching facilities (VLF) which ring the pit.



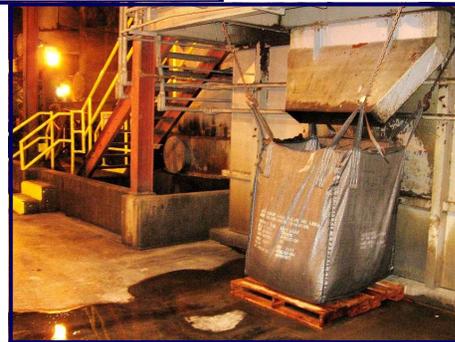
(top) The secondary crusher sorts and reduces the rock to pebbles. (bottom) Lime is added to elevate the PH. The top of the VLF can be seen in the background.

solution dissolves the microscopic deposits of gold and silver into a liquid, called "pregnant solution," which is captured and pumped into the recovery plant. In the recovery plant a three-step process called Adsorption, Desorption and Recovery extracts the gold and silver from the pregnant solution.



(left) The (ADR) plant is located just west of Victor. Here gold and silver are extracted through the Adsorption, Desorption and Recovery process. (below) The bag holds chemicals after the completion of the Desorption process.

In the Adsorption step, the pregnant solution is cascaded over carbon columns, made from crushed coconut shells, which attract the metal to its surface. Next, in the Desorption process, the gold and silver



are chemically removed from the carbon, which is recycled, and the concentrated solution pumped to electrowinning cells where the metal is removed by electrolysis to create a gold/silver-rich sludge that is similar to mud. The remaining solution, containing no gold or silver, is circulated back to the leaching process.

The last step, the Recovery process, is to melt the gold-laden mud in a furnace (at around 2100 degrees Fahrenheit) and pour it into a cone-shaped mold (see picture). Once cooled and the slag removed, the "button" of gold and silver (called a "Dore") weighs an average of 60 pounds and contains from 65% to 70% gold.

The State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recognizes the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Company as a Gold Level Leader (the highest level) in the Environmental Leadership Program. Established in 2006, the program rewards superior environmental performers who voluntarily go beyond



Yours truly holding a 55 pound gold button worth approximately \$1,100,000.

state and federal requirements and are committed to continual environmental improvement. CC&V is the first mining company in Colorado to qualify for this honor.

DM

Dave's Buyers' Guide

Cabins, second-homes and land specials from Coldwell Banker 1st Choice Realty →

Prices and status effective as of March 31, 2012



\$724,900

4013 County Rd. 102, Guffey
Fall in Love! - Custom home on 40 pristine acres. 4BR/4BA/3GAR with 4524 S.F. 20" British Columbian hewn logs, chef's delight kitchen, master suite on main level. Mountain views. So much to see! See it now! #756295

The Pikes Peak Market
 By Bill McAfee - Empire Title

We are seeing two different markets in the Pikes Peak region. The \$250,000 and below is heating up to the point of boiling. The \$250,000 - \$500,000 is starting to pick up steam. The \$500,000 and above is at least lukewarm. Consumer confidence is going from a spark to a flame. Our market, though not a raging inferno, has signs of heating up like we haven't seen in years.

What is causing the boiling in the \$250,000, especially the \$200,000 and below market, is lack of inventory, historic low interest rates and consumer confidence which has been lacking for years. [Showings], contracts and closings are all up. Everything in this price range has between 3 and 4 months of inventory. The normal inventory level in this price range is 6 months. With more ...people purchasing homes and fewer homes on the market, I am predicting that prices will likely increase by 2 - 3% for the year in the \$200,000 and below price bracket. [78%] of the homes in the MLS are being sold in the \$250,000 and below price range. [In] the words of one broker, being overpriced by \$5,000 will be the difference between getting showings and selling the property. *(partial copy from the Colorado Springs Real Estate Journal)*

To inquire, email or call 719.687.1516

(Martinek Team listings are BOXED)



\$649,850

711 Skyline Dr., Woodland Park Custom Home! 4BR/4BA/2GAR, 5010 S.F. on 0.46 acres. Built for luxury, cathedral ceilings, gourmet kitchen, master retreat on main level, an endless list of extras. Lots of amenities await you. #778446



\$234,750

472 Rhyolite Lane, Florissant Crystal Peak! 4BR/3BA/2Gar, w/ 2940 S.F. on 1.28 acres. Immaculate is the word, main-level living, red oak cabinets in kitchen, walkout lower level w/ family room, over-size garage & workshop. #770078



\$214,900

430 Buck Lake Dr., Divide Move-in Condition! A great mountain home! 3BR/2BA/0GAR and 1900 S.F. on 1.62 acres. Cedar-sided with vaulted ceilings, huge deck and wood stove. New interior paint. Get-away here! #739203



\$209,900

74 Swiss Way, Lake George Log Home! 3BR/3BA/2GAR and 1980 S.F., 1.3 acres. Well insulated, flagstone FP, great room, wood stove, huge deck, detached garage. View of rock formations. Small extra cabin or playhouse. Oversized workshop space. #762560



\$129,900

Reduced!

357 Kutsu Ridge Dr., Florissant Handyman! 2BR/1BA/2GAR, 1152 S.F. on 0.7 acre. Rustic home, nicely treed lot. A great summer home for someone willing to complete some interior carpeting and trim work. All the basics are here, just waiting for you. #775507



\$145,900

Under Contract

127 West Street, Cripple Creek Step back in Time. 1909 renovated log home in Knob Hill area. 2BR/1BA/1GAR, 1268 S.F. on 0.22 acres. Natural wood beams, T&G ceiling, loft bedrooms, modern country kitchen. Family room added recently. Beautiful! #723177



\$33,900

127 Carlton Cir, Florissant Building Plans! This 2.04 acre lot is ready to go. Perc test done, fire mitigation trees cut, building plans available. A well permit is waiting. This is a beautiful parcel overlooking the CME valley. A dream lot for a dream home.



\$19,900

2847 N. Mountain Est. Florissant Two Lots! Two adjacent lots on a corner that total 1.18 acres. Several building sites are among the many Ponderosa and Fir trees. A selective build produces a great view of Pikes Peak.



\$15,000

317 Blue Spruce Dr, Florissant Scenic! 1.61 acres lot with the building sites is on the ridge line. Then the lot slopes severely down to Four Mile Road. View of the Dome Rock area. Secluded and very private. #756145



\$16,000

1001 S. Mtn Est. Rd, Florissant Meadow! Two acres of meadow and trees and some nice building sites in beautiful Colorado Mountain Estates, south of Florissant. Easy access to nearby Fossil Beds and Cripple Creek. #530773



\$16,000

2856 Blue Mesa Dr., Divide Fronts Water! This heavily treed lot in Highland Lakes (1.67 acres) slopes down to Beaver Lake No. 2. Strategic tree cuts will make room for a driveway and a building site. See this beautiful lot. #457747

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