

Trips to Montezuma Colorado 2018

An ascent of Ruby Mountain
and two visits to the Pennsylvania Mine

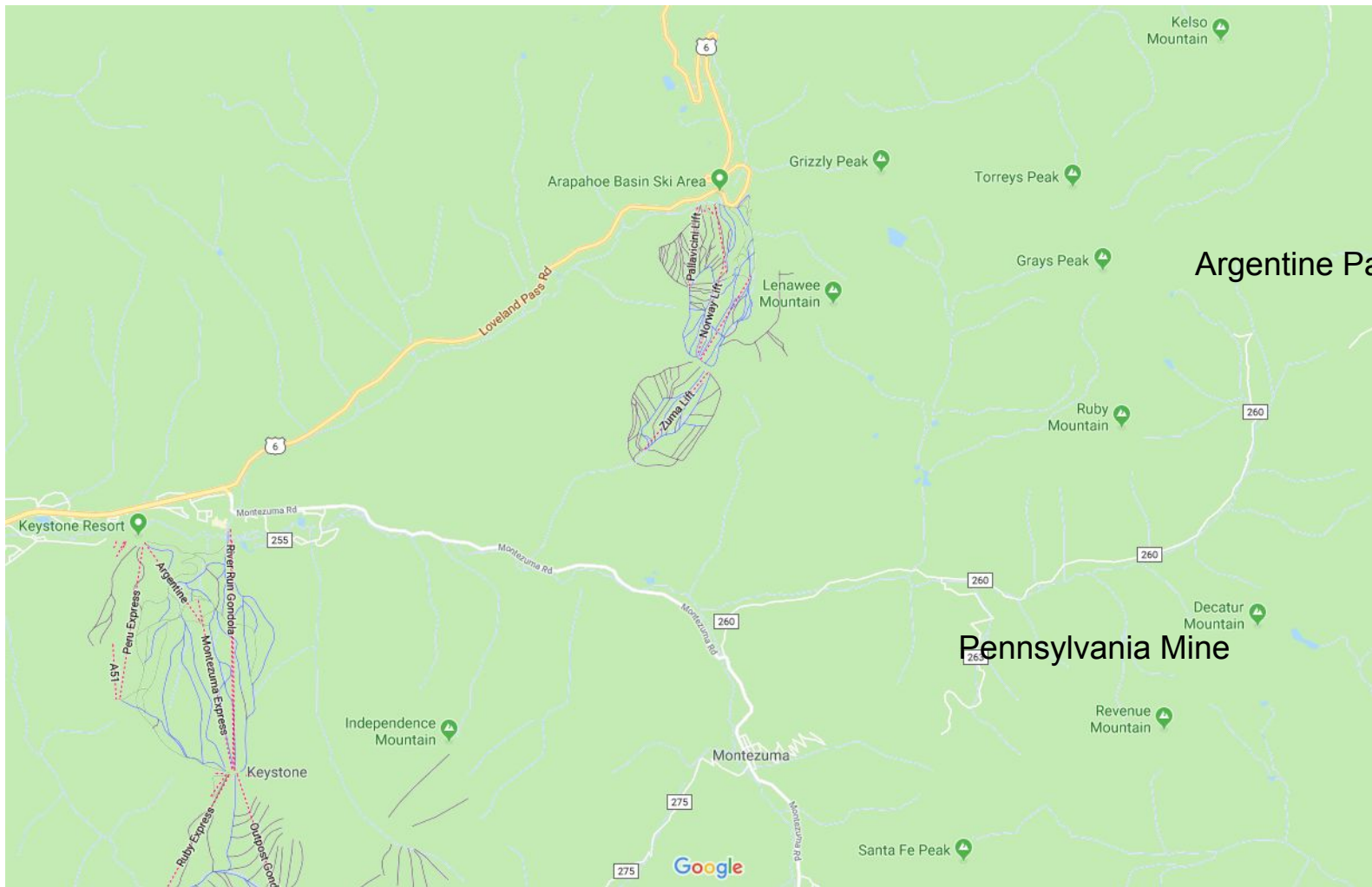
Montezuma 2018

What follows are pictures from July and September of 2018 on two trips Mark took to the Montezuma area near Keystone Colorado.

In July Mark and Nancy were interested in climbing Ruby Mountain which I wanted to check out for my granddaughter by the same name.... While I was in the neighborhood it occurred to me that I was driving past the Pennsylvania Mine where our Grandpa Wood injured his hand which lead to meeting Gram. We had a short time to explore that day and I decided to come back....

In September Leora and I made a visit to the site and spent an afternoon poking around and looking at the relics.

Walking around there made all of us appreciate how hardy the folks that worked up there had to be and what was likely a pretty isolated lifestyle.



Argentine Pass

Pennsylvania Mine



July



Argentine Pass is in the distance. The journey to this point is a lot easier than Leora remembers from her last trip.

End of the Road at the Shoe Box Mine



September

Ruby Mountain - Got the idea of going up here when I noticed this on a panorama picture in one of the Breckenridge ski area warming huts during the winter.

That prompted me to think about going up here in case someday my grand daughter (Ruby) wants to go up ...

However, there are something on the order of at least 5 Ruby Mountains in Colorado.



On the way up



We had to take a few stops to catch our breath !!!!
Elevation at start is already 11,000 ft



Good time to see lots of flowers





On the way up to Ruby Mountain we pass this old mine site. Behind me is called Horse Shoe Basin.

Argentine Pass summit is just over my head. This is the mule and wagon track that was used to cross over the Continental Divide





Hard to imagine getting this boiler up here.



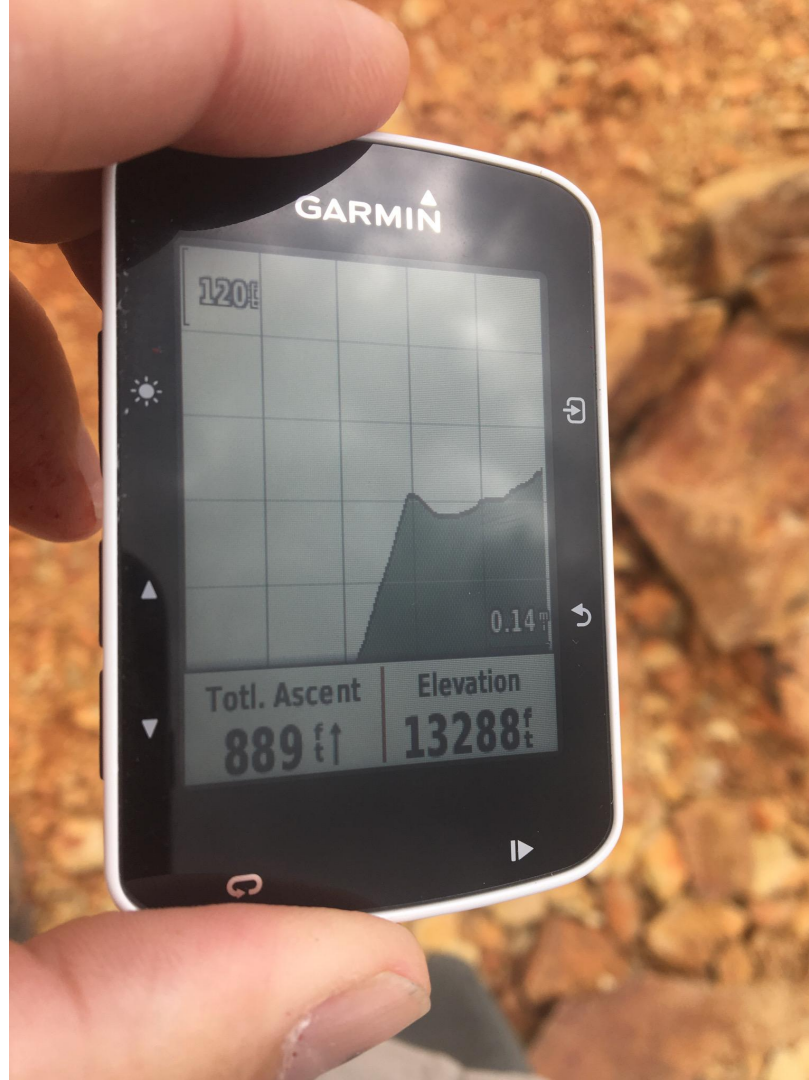
On the summit ridge



At the very top now



My handheld GPS
pretty well matches
what the maps said.





Back from the top of the mountain
Time for lunch
We have been busy having fun this trip

Pennsylvania Mine Visits - July and September

I made two visits to the mine site this year.

Our family history indicated the G.H. Wood was working here when his hand was injured in a piece of milling equipment. This led to his recovery in Breckenridge and the subsequent meeting with Lillian Smith. The rest is our common heritage !

The site operated from the 1880's to 1920's. I was able to look at a 1935 report that details the production from the site over its life. Roughly the value in current dollars of the total operation would be around \$30 Million, what would be left as profit was not likely too much of this number. This value was generated from about 65,000 tons of ores.

For perspective, Henderson Mine where Carl worked would do that volume in 2 to 3 days. My first job in Creede at the Bulldog Mine we did that volume in 9 months and later on at the big open pits we could do that much in less than a day.

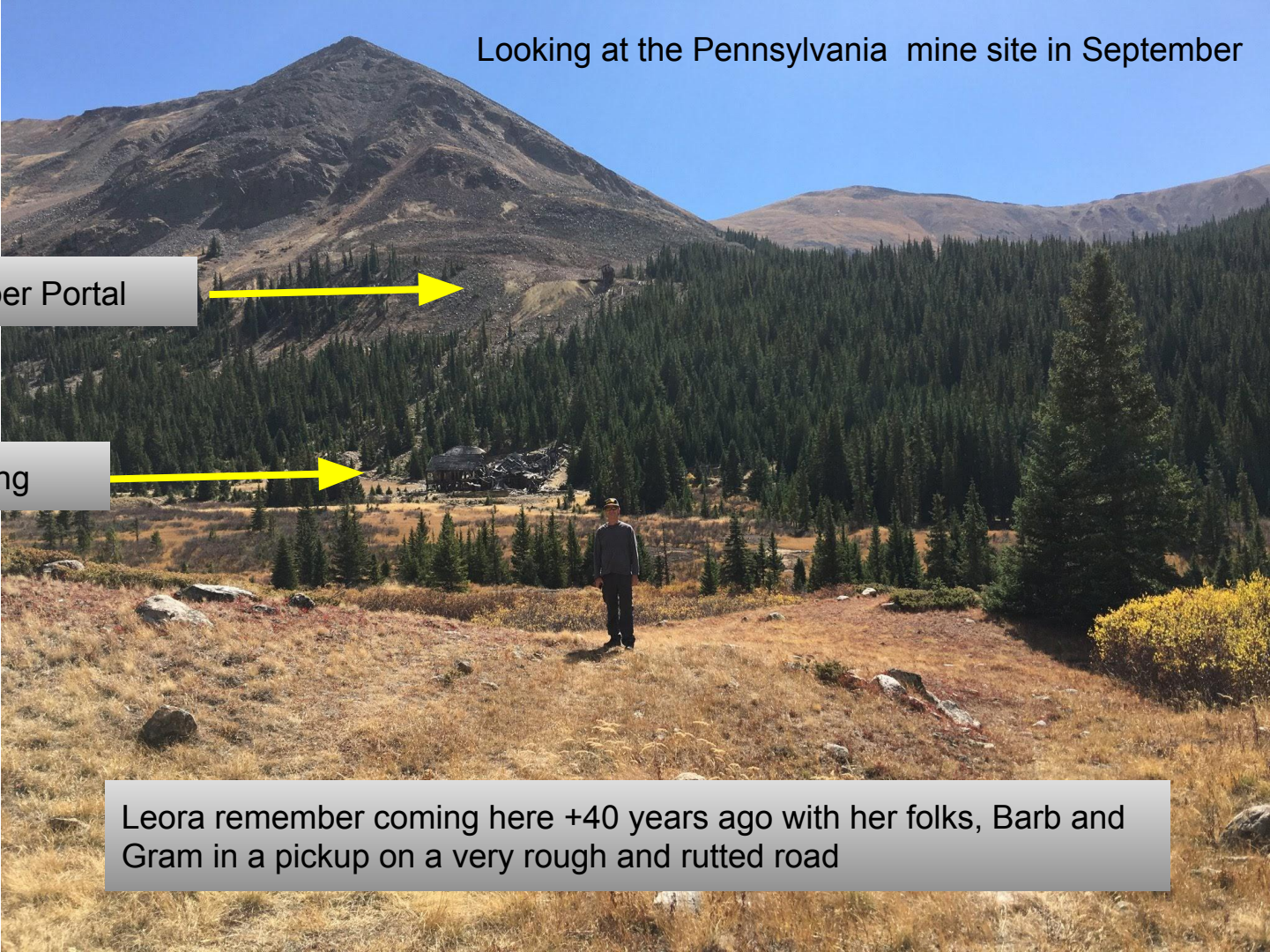
Knowing the industry it was a very impressive to visit here and appreciate the amount of work given the tools, methods, infrastructure and remote location at the time.

Looking at the Pennsylvania mine site in September

Upper Portal

Mill Building

Leora remember coming here +40 years ago with her folks, Barb and Gram in a pickup on a very rough and rutted road



Looking at the mine site in July

The next slide is
viewed from here



View looking North

Ruby Mountain

Argentine Pass

This is an old mule and wagon track

End of the Road
Shoe Box Mine



PENNSYLVANIA MINE PORTAL REHABILITATION PROJECT

THE PENNSYLVANIA MINE DRAINS HEAVY METAL LADEN WATER INTO PERU CREEK, a tributary of the Snake River, and results in one of the most significant single loading sources contributing to water quality degradation. The mine is developed on six different "levels" designated A through F, with A being the highest in elevation and F at the bottom. Currently, no access to the underground workings is possible.

The first goal of the project is to establish safe access to the underground mine workings on both Level F and Level C of the Pennsylvania Mine. Following completion of the project, underground investigations will be conducted to provide a more comprehensive understanding of mine hydrology and eventual remedy selection.

PROFESSIONAL PAPER 175 PLATE 88



PROJECT MANAGED AND DEVELOPED BY:



The mine area has been worked on by the State of Colorado in the past 10 years to mitigate acid mine drainage.





Mill Site building - this would most likely have been where
Grandpa Wood worked











I would speculate that the portion of building that held the equipment that caused the injury are in this portion of the structure that has collapsed.











Mark and Leora visit in September





Looking up the hill from the mill. There was an aerial tram from the upper portal that brought ore to the mill





Most likely this is the bunk house foundation
Leora has some photos that she thinks are from this area

View from Upper Portal - July



View from Upper Portal - September





There would have been a railway for the mine cars to come across here and dump into the ore house







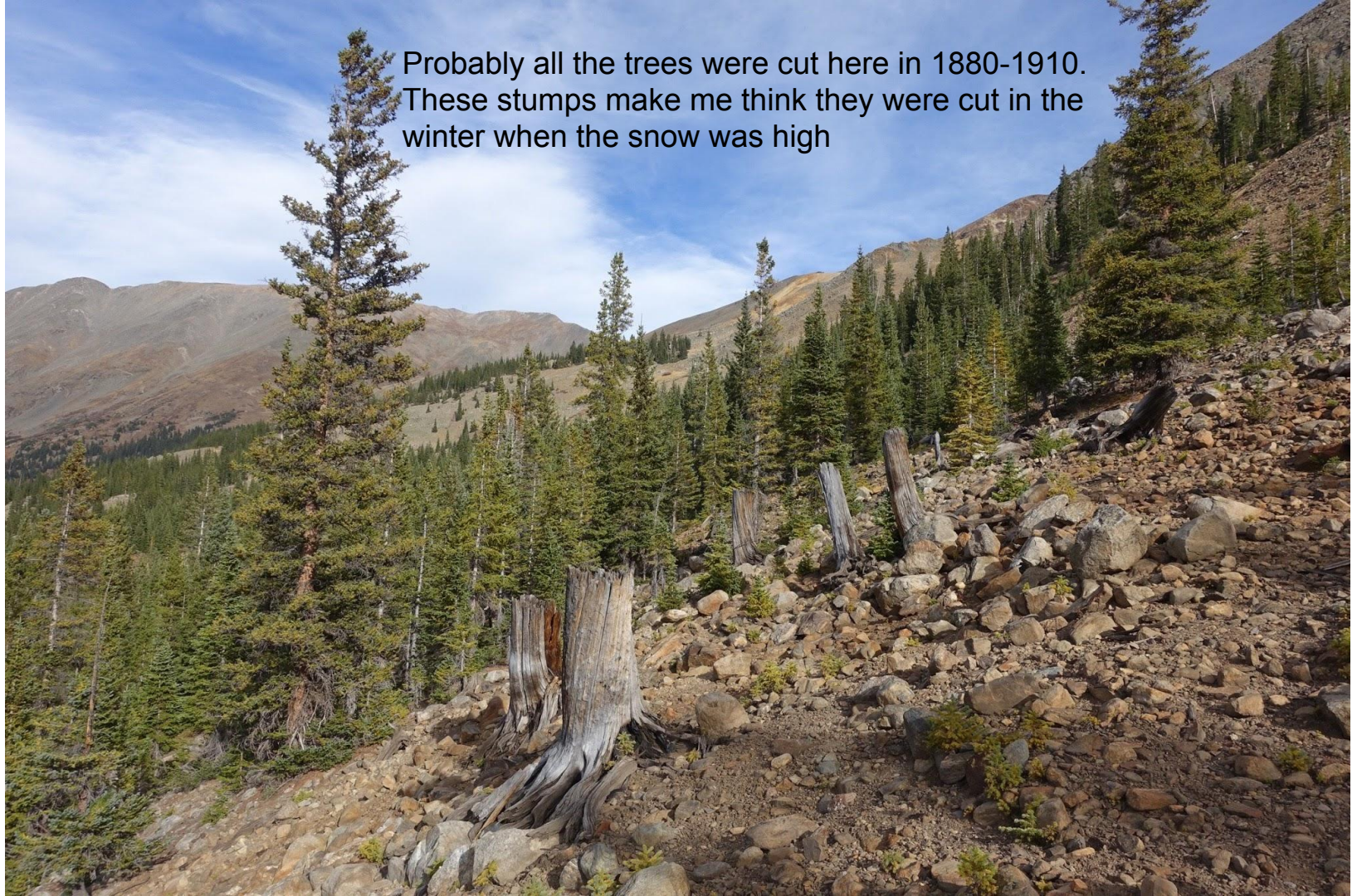




One of the cable towers is visible



Probably all the trees were cut here in 1880-1910.
These stumps make me think they were cut in the
winter when the snow was high



Mountain Goats are making this home.
Saw them in both July and September



