

North Carolina's Gold First In America

GEORGEVILLE — place a smidgen down the road from here. That discovery and the history of gold in North Carolina was the first in America. The date was 1799, and the

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site. The site is located 25 miles from Charlotte and 15 miles from Concord. Gold has been called the

"eternal metal" because it will not erode or tarnish. The visitor center shows its value through imaginative displays such as old safes. There is one display of tobacco and furs being exchanged for gold. Old machinery used in gold mining can be seen.

A display shows gold coins that were made in North Carolina. Through interesting exhibits, the many uses of gold are shown, such as for medicine and electronics.

John Reed came to America in 1778 as a Hessian soldier and settled in North Carolina to be near fellow Germans.

He probably would not be remembered if his son, Conrad, hadn't played hooky from church one Sunday in 1799. Conrad went fishing in Little Meadow Creek and spotted a yellow object in the water. The discovery — gold — weighed roughly 17 pounds. It was used as a doorstop for three years. A jeweler in Fayetteville told Reed the metal was gold in 1802, and Reed asked \$3.50 for the nugget. The merchant, whose name is now unknown, was more than glad to pay \$3.50, and he received roughly \$3,600 worth of gold.

No one knows how much gold was taken from North Carolina, but it has been estimated at some \$25 to \$100-million worth. "Placer" or creek gold mining gave way to underground mining around 1825. The gold seekers then went underground.

How was gold found back in those days? "It was strictly pick, shovel and gun powder", says site manager Tom Norton.

Pick marks are visible as visitors are guided through part of the mine. It is interesting to note that the veins run southwest to northeast, the same as the Appalachian Mountains.

A complete tour takes a little over two hours. A stamp mill is scheduled to open either in the spring or summer. Ore is crushed here and then sent to the concentrating table.

The roofs of the visitor center and the stamp mill are shaped to let in a maximum amount of light, so the gold can be seen better.

A slave named Peter on the Reed farm found the largest nugget in 1803 in Little Meadow Creek. It weighed 28 pounds.

Mrs. Inez Helms of nearby Georgeville knows about the "discoveries" around the Reed Mine Site. Her grandfather, Jacob L. Shinn, found the last big nugget here in April, 1896.

This one weighed 22 pounds. A cast of the nugget can be seen by visitors, so they can appreciate the size of such a hunk of gold.

Council Meeting Minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Edenton met this day in special session at 5:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building.

Members present: Mayor Roy L. Harrell; Jesse L. Harrell; E.G. Burroughs; Harry A. Spruill, Jr.; and Allen L. Hornthal.

Mayor Harrell called the meeting to order and the bids for the curb and gutter work on North Granville Street were discussed. Motion by Councilman Jesse Harrell, seconded by Councilman Hornthal and unanimously carried that Rose Brothers Construction Co., the low bidder, be awarded the contract on North Granville Street curb and gutter in the amount of \$94,695.00, plus engineering. This project is a

result of a petition dated October 5, 1977, and a resolution directing the project be undertaken dated December 13, 1977.

The Council then discussed the procedure to be followed on the purchase of property in the Community Development Area if the property owner did not accept the offer to purchase. It was decided that the property owner would be requested to notify the community Development Director in writing as to what their decision might be as to price, rehabilitation, method of payment, etc. The Mayor then appointed a committee of Jesse L. Harrell, Harry A. Spruill, and Administrator W.B. Gardner to act as a committee of the Council to meet individually with the property owners and to discuss their proposals or objections and to make recommendations to the Council.

Motion by Councilman Spruill, seconded by Councilman Hornthal and

unanimously carried directing the Mayor to sign an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Co., concerning the construction and maintenance of an eight inch water pipeline crossing in the Town of Edenton.

Administrator Gardner informed the Council of a meeting of AADA with Governor Hunt on May 4, 1978, at 1:00 P.M. Councilman Spruill and Administrator Gardner agreed to attend.

A discussion was held on the results of the recent decision of the N.C. Supreme Court and what effect it would have on the present zoning classification of the piece of property in question. Mr. Gardner was directed to contact the Attorney General's Office, League of Municipalities and the Institute of Government for their advice.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

W.B. Gardner
Administrator



INSPECT CAST—Tom Norton, site manager at Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site near Georgeville, looks at a cast of the last big gold nugget found at the Reed Mine. Mrs. Inez Helms is the granddaughter of Jacob L. Shinn, who discovered the 22 pound nugget in April of 1896.

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ECU Releases Honor Roll

GREENVILLE — Seventeen outstanding students in the East Carolina University School of Technology were initiated into ECU's Beta Mu chapter of Epsilon Pi Tau honor society at its recent 15th annual Spring Banquet.

The 17 are majoring in industrial and technical education at ECU, and were selected for membership on the basis of academic achievement and demonstration of potential development of Epsilon Pi Tau's three precepts: skill, social and professional efficiency, and research.

Among the students initiated was Michael Hall, 114 Morris Circle, Edenton.

Taylor Theatre EDENTON, N.C. PHONE 482-2312

SAVE THIS CALENDAR
For handy reference to the Big Movies coming to the Taylor Theatre during May. This Calendar will also serve as free admission to the Taylor Theatre on May 31st.

BARGAIN NITE EACH TUESDAY
ADM. ADULTS \$1.50
CHILD \$1.25

SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
FOUR BIG DAYS						
Return from Outer Space!			Ode to Billy Joe			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FOUR BIG DAYS						
Dracula's Day		September 30, 1955				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
FOUR BIG DAYS						
Youngblood			Henry Fonda Great Smokey Roadblock			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
FIVE BIG DAYS						
Jennyfer			High Ballin'			
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
FIVE BIG DAYS						
High Ballin'			SPECIAL LATE SHOWS FRI. & SAT. 11:15 P.M.			
MAY 5 & 6 'MR. MEAN'						
MAY 12-13 'YOUNGBLOOD'						
MAY 18-20 'BLACK CAESAR' & 'BLACK MAMA'						
MAY 26-27 'NORMAN IS THAT YOU'						

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'75 Ford Blue \$1650	'74 Caprice 22,000 mi Call!	'74 Grand Prix Slight Damage \$1950	'74 Cutlass Supreme Maroon	'74 Granville Convertible Collectors!	'75 Grand Prix Nice!
'74 Opel Wagon \$1500	'73 Caprice Extra Clean	'73 Vega Wagon \$750	'72 Vega Coupe \$595	'72 Catalina 4 door \$1195	'70 Monte Carlo \$995
'69 Cadillac See to Believe!	'66 Ford Wagon \$150	'76 Wagoneer Loaded Call!	'76 Luv Nice \$3295	'73 Chevy Van \$2395	'75 C65 Tractor "427"

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