All that Glitters…

By Linda Grantham

When we think about mining in Colorado, naturally gold comes to mind, as it has played such an important part in the history of our state in general and Wheat Ridge especially.

What you may not know is for a short while, Colorado had the only commercial diamond mine in the United States.

Kimberlite, an igneous rock formed deep within the earth’s mantle is the source of diamonds, although worldwide, only a small percentage of kimberlite is diamondiferous.

Kelsey Lake Diamond Mine is located at an altitude of 5,850ft, four and a half miles west of highway 287 less than one mile from the Wyoming state line. Open pit mining began in 1996 and continued until the government reclaimed it in 2003 as wetlands.

In 2015, a 16.87 carat diamond from Kelsey Lake Mine, sold at auction for $185,000.