



A Birthday Tribute to Big Al

A Monday Morning Musing from Mickey the Mercenary Geologist

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Regular visitors to my website and in particular the [Mercenary Interviews](#) section know my good friend Al Korelin. I'm relating this story to give you an idea of how Al Korelin helped me change career directions in early 2007, has supported my business as an analyst, and inspired me to write this musing on his birthday.

I first met "Big Al" in January 2006 while working the sell side of the exploration game. As Chief Geologist for a junior resource company, I hosted a small group, including an analyst, a broker, a fund manager, and Al and his radio partner, on a tour of our flagship copper oxide project north of La Serena, Chile. Also included in the group was our CEO, trusted employee Unni the tri-lingual Norwegian, and Al's daughter Stephanie, at the time a college student.

Although the tour was not without challenges, mostly because Unni and I were the only Spanish speakers and it was her first time experiencing the bad *Chileno* Spanish, the field tours went well, the food and wine were excellent, and a veritable good time was had by all. The only real snafu was an outing at the local "golf resort" where two mismatched sets of clubs were available for five golfers. But there weren't any good handicaps in the group so that didn't matter much.

We even recorded the first ever remote [Korelin Economics Report](#) show from the field at this location:



El Vino Fino Prospect, Region IV, Chile, January 2006

Within four months of the above tour, this particular company had fallen on hard financial times. I was owed money and working for shares. That's not an unusual situation for me; I don't like it but been there, done that.

I much prefer cash and soon went back to my Mercenary ways, took a mapping job where I discovered a new outcropping gold zone in an old mining district, caught lots of fish and stabbed lots of frogs over the summer, hunted and fished in the Ozarks of Missouri in the fall, watched my beloved Cardinals win their 10th World Series, and basically kept on keeping on.

At the San Francisco Hard Assets Conference in late November 2006, Al approached me to evaluate a company for this same group of professionals shown above. I did that, told him of my desire to re-invent myself as an exploration and mining analyst, and asked him to keep an ear to the ground for opportunities.

After the holidays, I went to Mexico and prospected the Sierra Madre for a company that Big Al introduced me to. I started looking for something different when the temperature hit 35degrees C (that's 95 degrees for metrically-challenged Americans) in late February 2007. Sure enough Al suggested contacting Jay Taylor and I was retained during the PDAC to review and evaluate about 30 companies recommended in his newsletter portfolio.

That job was completed in about three months and I determined to hang out my shingle as an independent analyst in mid 2007. The Mercenary Geologist was born.

Thus I owe my humble beginnings as an analyst to Al Korelin.

Al has been one of my ardent and continual supporters. I do regular radio interviews with him, his daughter Stephanie graduated and eventually worked for me on the aforementioned Chilean project, and I hired his daughter Sarah to film and produced a conference presentation. We've shot a couple of corporate videos together, recorded and produced by his lovely wife Kathy and Sarah. I've now worked and socialized with the Korelin family in four different countries.

Al has introduced me to many new contacts in our business and serves as a source of inspiration for his honesty, optimism, and ability to get along with nearly everyone in the highly competitive media business.

Happy 67th Birthday, Big Al. I tip an always half full glass of *tinto* to you:

May your business prosper, your girls bring joy to your life, your portfolio continue to grow, and your golden baritone grace the airwaves for many years to come.

Ciao for now,

Mickey Fulp
Mercenary Geologist



The [Mercenary Geologist Michael S. "Mickey" Fulp](#) is a Certified Professional Geologist with a B.Sc. Earth Sciences with honor from the University of Tulsa, and M.Sc. Geology from the University of New Mexico. Mickey has 30 years experience as an exploration geologist searching for economic deposits of base and precious metals, industrial minerals, uranium, coal, oil and gas, and water in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

Mickey has worked for junior explorers, major mining companies, private companies, and investors as a consulting economic geologist for the past 22 years, specializing in geological mapping, property evaluation, and business development. In addition to Mickey's professional credentials and experience, he is high-altitude proficient, and is bilingual in English and Spanish. From 2003 to 2006, he made four outcrop ore discoveries in Peru, Nevada, Chile, and British Columbia.

Mickey is well-known throughout the mining and exploration community due to his ongoing work as an analyst, writer, and speaker.

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