

# MINING HISTORY NEWS

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Volume 4, Number 1

## The Black Hills of Dakota

Deadwood and Lead, centers for mining in the Black Hills and location of the Homestake gold mine, will be home for the association's Fourth Annual Conference to be held July 28 thru August 1, 1993. Site of an 1876 gold rush, Deadwood grew from a makeshift camp to a permanent city with the development of hard rock mining, especially at nearby Lead. The two communities served as mining and trade centers and today have much of the rich architecture and engineering heritage of the past century. In 1989 the South Dakota legislature permitted for limited stakes gambling in Deadwood, causing rapid growth and change along Main Street. Profits from the nickel slot machines go into a fund to help historic preservation.

Our group will tour Deadwood and its museums, Lead and the Black Hills Mining Museum, the Homestake mining operation, as well as other attractions. The Deadwood historic preservation staff, as well as staff of the Historic Preservation Center of the South Dakota Historical Society, and the Black Hills Mining Museum are helping with logistics and events.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference write Jay Fell, History Department, 312 Miller Library, Colby College, Waterville, Maine 04901. Lysa Wegmen-French of the National Park Service and James Whiteside at the University of Colorado, Denver complete the program committee. The conference will include presentations on works in progress, preservation and museum activities, and poster sessions besides the standard symposia. So mark your calendars and plan to attend.

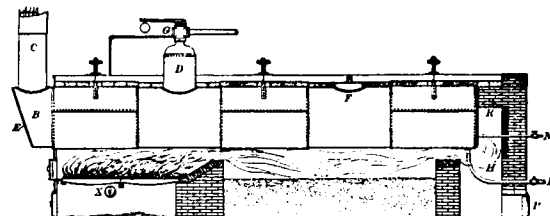
The conference will be held at the Golden Hills Hotel and Conference Center, Lead. Rooms are \$60 each. For reservations call 1-800-528-1234 (Best Western Reservations) or 1-605-584-1800. More in the next newsletter.

## Deadwood/Lead Readings

Anyone interested in reading about the area before next summer should see Watson Parker's *Deadwood the Golden Years* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1981) and on the Homestake mine see Mildred Fielder, *The Treasure of Homestake Gold* (Aberdeen, South Dakota: North Plains Press, 1970). For a two volume compilation of fabulous historic photographs of Deadwood and Lead see Donald Toms, William J. Stone, and Gretchen Motchenbacher, *The Gold Belt Cities* (Lead: G.O.L.D., 1988). Retired mining engineer Joel Waterland has produced three volumes on area mining. They are hard to find but well worth reading.

## Cheers for Deadwood Preservation Staff

Anyone who has followed the fights over preservation in the new gaming towns, Deadwood, Central City-Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek, have been saddened by the loss of the historic character of many of the sites and buildings in these one-time booming mining camps. The hottest seat to sit on in the world of historic preservation has been the review board and planning commissions of these communities. The Deadwood board and commission recently were recognized by the Department of Interior for winning some tough battles in protecting the resources of the Deadwood National Historic Landmark.



## The President's Page

The Association held a breakfast meeting in conjunction with the Western History Association Annual Conference on October 15, 1992. Held in a rooftop restaurant overlooking the Yale campus in New Haven, Connecticut, the meeting attracted more than 40 people. Self-introductions and statements concerning research and writing interests added some life to an otherwise very early start to the day.

Announcements were made concerning the Association's Fourth Meeting to be held in Deadwood/Lead, South Dakota, July 28-August 1, 1993, and the results of the recent election. The officers for 1993-1994 are: President Stan Dempsey, Vice-President Duane Smith (who also received the Paul award at the breakfast), and new board members James E. Fell, Jr. and Noel Kirshenbaum. The Nominating Committee includes Silvia Pettem, Richard Franciviglia, and Ronald Limbaugh.

The MHA Board held a short business meeting after the breakfast. Actions included the approval of a proposition to co-sponsor the Third International Mining History Conference, which will be held at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado, June 6-10, 1994.

MHA members and friends made good use of the opportunity to visit Yale facilities, especially that marble temple, the Beinecke Library.

Stan Dempsey  
Denver, Colorado

## **Organization Notes**

The association will produce a journal dedicated to the dissemination of scholarly information about the Mining past. Authors are requested to submit manuscripts to the association, attention MHA journal, P. O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215. Manuscripts should focus on mining, include documentation, and illustrations, if essential. Manuscripts should not exceed thirty pages in length, double-space, typed pages. The journal will be inter-disciplinary and will be aimed at the educated generalists as well as the professional. Book reviews, critiques of exhibits, and evaluation of Cultural Resource Management reports will be included. Individuals interested in reviewed books, exhibits or CRM reports should send a 3x5 notecard with their name, address, affiliation, and area of interest (up to three subjects). A tentative schedule for publication has been set with the first issue ready in 1994 as a part of the Third International Mining History Conference.

## Third International Mining History Conference

The Mining History Association and the Colorado School of Mines, Golden will co-host the Third International Mining History Conference June 6-10, 1994 on the campus in Golden, Colorado. The conference will follow the pattern set by the first and second conferences held in Melbourne, Australia (1985) and Bochum, Germany (1989).

The Colorado School of Mines is located some ten miles west of Denver. It is one of the best known mining schools in the world. The school has excellent conference facilities and is readily accessible to the large number of mining communities in the Colorado Rockies.

The Mining History Association 1994 Conference will be held as part of the Third International Mining History Conference. Anyone interested in presenting a paper should submit a vitae and a synopsis of the paper (approximately 200 words or less) to the Mining History Association, P. O. Box 150300, Denver, Colorado by July 1, 1993. Please note that since the MHA conference will not have a separate call for papers next year, it is important that members interested in giving presentations submit their proposals before July 1, 1993 for the June 6-10, 1994 conference. Further information about the conference will be sent to all association members.

## **Calendar**

If you have not bought your 1993 calendar the Nevada Section of the SME-AIME has their Nevada Historic Mining Calendar available for \$8.50. The calendar sales helps the Nevada Section with their educational and outreach programs. For copies write or call the Book Lode, 3060 15th Street, Boulder, CO 80304, (303) 443-0714.

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The Mining History Association  
Newsletter  
Denver, Colorado

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining.

Dues \$10 per year

Please send dues to MHA, P.O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215.

Submissions for publication in the newsletter are welcome. Write:

Robert L. Spude  
editor

## Preservation Notes

Congrats to the handful of residents in **Aladdin, Wyoming**, the former coal camp on the edge of the Black Hills. Working with the State Abandoned Mine Lands Program, they helped restore the Aladdin Coal Tipple last summer. The coal camp served the mines of the Deadwood area and is an hour drive northeast of our Fourth Annual Conference site.

Among the many concerns of the preservationist is the overzealous clean-up of historic mining sites. The EPA has determined many of the historic milling and smelting areas of the West as Superfund clean-up projects. Metallurgist Noel Kirshenbaum sent in a clipping from *Nevada Geology* (Winter 1992) about the removal of the tailings of former mills along the Carson River, Nevada. Though agreeing with the need for removal of contaminants, Noel adds "the low threshold" for EPA's harmful elements, in this case mercury, "have doomed many sites of historical value." The Washoe Process developed in the mills of Nevada has been described but not with the thoroughness that a detailed analysis of the sites along the Carson River could reveal. Clean-up work should take into full account their impact on historic sites. A good study of the technology, metallurgy and historical archeology of Almarin Paul's mills, Guido Kustel's mill, the Ophir Mill, the Mexican mill of Janin's era, or another of equal significance seems in order.

Along a similar line as the above, Collamer Abbott writes for help with a description of adequate testing for contaminants. He is assisting in the preservation of the historic **Ely Copper Mine**, Vermont, while working with environmental groups in ensuring life safety. The mine had two hundred years of operation with most occurring in the late nineteenth century. The sulphide ore was smelted as well as roasted in heaps. Simple leaching methods were also used. Anyone with information, experience, or ideas about how to determine levels of contaminants, suggestions for mitigation, and how to provide for visitor access and interpretation should write Collamer Abbott at 38 Lower Hyde Park, White River Jct., VT, 05001

The archeological investigations at **South Pass City** during 1992 recovered information about the log business/residence of the South Pass News and its editor Robert Slack. The field crew also mapped the earlier placer mines on the site. For information about the continued archeological investigations write Todd Gunther, South Pass City State Historic Site, Wyoming.

The Friends of **Kennecott, Alaska** report work complete on repairing the roof of the 12-story concentrator (built 1912). They are raising funds to continue their good work. By purchasing Gail Neiburgge's limited edition print of the mill, you will be helping the group. Send a check made out to the Friends of Kennecott for \$88 to Mary Grisco, NPCA, Box 202045, Anchorage, AK 99520.

Readers from Kellog, Butte, Leadville, Bisbee -- take note. Hank Dahlberg, member of the Steering Committee for the future of **Hibbing, Minnesota** is asking for comments from our readers on how the former mining region can make the shift toward a new economy. Besides gambling (ala Central City, Cripple Creek and Deadwood) or skiing (Telluride, Aspen, or Breckenridge), or retirement center (after Ajo), they are looking for methods to enhance the appreciation of their former mining community as well as create economically viable propositions. Please write Hank at Mineral Potential Evaluation, Department of Natural Resources, State Of Minnesota, P. O. Box 567, Hibbing, Minnesota 55746.

Barbara Ann White, assistant forest archeologist, has four Knapp & Wade stamp mill shoes found at the Ohio Tapp Rock Copper Mine, which operated near **Bergland, Michigan** between 1847 and 1857. They are the old style square, Cornish stamps. She is seeking information about the mine or the Pittsburg manufacturer. If you have information/advice write her at Ottawa National Forest, 2100 E. Cloverland Drive, Ironwood, Michigan 49938.

National Register Bulletin 42 on nominating historic mining properties is in print and available from the National Park Service, National Register office, Washington, D.C. 20013.

## Conferences

The Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, will host its annual symposium in October 1993. They are inviting researchers to submit proposals for papers on nineteenth century western railroading to them by March 31, 1993. Contact John Ballweber, curator, or Kyle K. Wyatt, assistant curator, at Nevada State Railroad Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, Nevada 89710.

Michael Sampson writes: The 1994 annual meetings of the Society for Historical Archeology will be in Vancouver, British Columbia, January 5-9. I would like to hear from any researcher interested in participating in a symposium on mining in the Far West. Write Michael at 460 E. Talmadge Drive, San Diego, CA 92116.

A call for papers has been received from the XVIII International Symposium on "Geological Sciences in Latin America: Scientific Relations and Exchanges" to be held July 19-25, 1993 in Campinas-SP and Ouro Preto-MG, Brazil. Interested parties should write them before February 28 at XVIII Inhhigec Symposium, c/o M. M. Lopes, IG/UNICAMP, P. O. Box 6152, 13081 - Campinas - SP, Brazil.

## Overseas/Across the Border

Alan Muetel writes about the work to preserve and interpret the lead mining regions of England. The Mill Close Mine, once the biggest producer in Europe, was under demolition when a compromise was reached to make safe the former working areas and to leave structures standing as a legacy to the industry. The Peak District Historical Society operates a museum; among its treasures is an 1819 pressure engine and drainage machinery recovered from the Wills Founder Mine. The group is raising funds to do further restoration of the Magpie Mine, its Cornish engine and nearby ruins. Alan is director of the museum and serves on the Peak National Park board, an area of natural beauty. He writes that their biggest concern is how to accommodate 22 million visitors per year. For information about the museum and its publications write Alan Muetel at 72 Wolds Rise, Matlock, Derbyshire, U.K., DE4 3HJ.

Ballarat, Victoria, Australia is legendary in the annals of international gold mining history. Ballarat today is a modern city, but through the efforts of the Ballarat Historical Park Association a mining camp of the 1850s-1860s called Sovereign Hill has been reconstructed nearby. Member Ross Mainwaring, who some of you may remember meeting at the MHA's Boise conference, sent a packet of information about this exceptional attraction. The Historical Park has the usual offerings of crafts and shops, but in addition the site includes operating period mining machinery -- whims, puddling machines, a Chilean mill, beam pump, and stamp mill. Unlike many American historic parks where the mining equipment is set up in curious "artifact gardens," at Sovereign Hill the 'diggins' are worked by horses, machines, and hundreds of visitors. Further enquiries, write: Sovereign Hill, Sovereign Hill Post Office, Ballarat, Victoria 3350, Australia.

David Neufeld of the Canadian Parks Service sent copies of "Research Bulletin" numbers 290 and 291 about ongoing work on Klondike Historic Sites, Yukon Territory. Especially helpful is number 291 "An Evaluation of the Utility of 'The Engineering Index' as an Historical Research Tool." Number 290 deals with boating along the Chilkoot Trail. The bulletins are free from the Publications Division, attn. Barbara McIntyre, 1600 Liverpool Court, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A OH3.

Atalaya Tours will again conduct their 8 day study tour of the Rio Tinto mines of Spain. In addition they have added a study tour of the former Roman gold mines of northwest Spain and another tour, of eastern Andalucia. For more information contact them at Ceinionfa, Penglais Terrace, Alberstwyth, SY23 2ET, U. K.

## Ghost Town for Sale

Boulder County, Colorado acquired the former 1860s gold camp of Oradell (9 acres, two houses) for public use. The county commissioners had a change of heart and now offer the site for sale (they paid \$230,000). The former resident wants the site preserved and fears development of home sites on the acreage. The county is seeking a sympathetic buyer. Write Boulder County Commissioners, Courthouse, Boulder, Colorado.

CALL FOR PAPERS

# FOURTH MEETING OF MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

*DEADWOOD/LEAD, SOUTH DAKOTA*

*JULY 28 - AUGUST 1, 1993*

The Program Committee for the Deadwood/Lead meeting of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (including chair and discussant) on any topic or aspect of mining in history. Sessions normally include two or three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no geographical or temporal limitations.

Proposals should include an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each paper, plus biographical information about each presenter and session participant. Please send proposals to the Program Committee chair before April 1, 1993.

*1993 Program Chair:*

Dr. James E. Fell  
Department of History  
Colby College  
312 Miller Library  
Waterville, Main 04901

## Book Notes

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County has published *Modest Fortunes, Mining in Northern Baja California* by Donald Chapute, William M. Mason, and David Zarate Loperena. Tourists bound for Ensenada are often unaware of the mining history in the hills of the Baja. The book is an excellent compilation of the stories of people as well as of the marginal mines that operated sporadically, mostly during the early twentieth century. The book is number 51 of the Baja California Travels Series initiated by Dawson Books; the series includes, among others, Richard Lingenfelter's *The Rush of 1889, The Baja California Gold Fever*, which *Modest Fortunes* expands upon greatly.

The folks at the University of Idaho Press deserve a big thank you for printing long out-of-print books or hard to find pioneer journals about the Gem State. In 1988 they published *Bound for Idaho, The 1864 Trail Journal of Julius Merrill*, in 1990 William Armistead Goulder's *Reminiscences, Incidents in the Life of a Pioneer of Oregon and Idaho*, also in 1990 Charles S. Walgamott's *Six Decades Back*, and in 1991 William T. Stoll's *Silver Strike, The True Story of Silver Mining in the Coeur d'Alenes*. Each book contains much mining, has new introductory material (the first two by Merle Wells), and is available in paperback from the U of I Press, Moscow, Idaho, 83843.

Richard Shelton's *Going Back to Bisbee* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1992), though not a book about mining history, is a delightful rumination about southeast Arizona from the 1950s on. Shelton reflects on ghost towns, young miners just getting by, Phelps Dodge, and about a place rich in history. It is a good read.

The history of a southwestern coal town is revealed in Marilyn D. Rhinehart's *A Way to Work and a Way of Life: Coal Mining in Thurber, Texas, 1888-1926* (Texas A & M Press, College Station, Texas). Thurber, a company town as well as a union stronghold, is now nearly a ghost town. Professor Rhinehart shows the social and working world of the coal miners dominated by the Texas Pacific Coal & Oil Company.

The Vermont Archeological Society sent their flyer for the new book *200 Years of Soot and Sweat, the History and Archeology of Vermont's Iron, Charcoal, and Lime Industries* by Victor R. Rolando. For copies send \$32.95 to Mountain Publications, P. O. Box 1812, Manchester Ctr, VT 05255.

John C. Boswell's *History of the Alaskan Operations of the United States Smelting, Refining and Mining Company* are available for \$12 from Chip Hughes at 5228 South Morning Crest Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah 84123. Chip also has a guide to the collections of the USSR&MC available for researchers. The Boswell book chronicles the development of dredging in the Far North, particularly the company's operations around Fairbanks. The photographs alone are worth \$12. Chip writes that he will be at the Deadwood meeting and will hand deliver copies if desired.

## From the Archives

*Day to Day, A Guide to the Records of the Historic Day Mines Group* by Terry Abraham and Richard C. Davis is available from the Library, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843. The 44 page illustrated guide details the papers, the University collections in general, and includes a brief history.

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology contains a respected collection of material related to mining in the Black Hills. Unfortunately, the collection was poorly organized. Several years ago the National Historical Publications and Records Commission awarded the school \$52,402 to establish an archives. By next summer you may be able to walk into the library and find the useful index to the *Black Hills Mining Review* or a scarce publication by the Mining Men's Association. And if you go to the library, take a break, and follow the dinosaur tracks painted on the sidewalk to the excellent natural history museum.

The National Archives is alerting all researchers planning to visit their facilities that a massive move of records is scheduled during 1994 and 1995. Write them for details: Office of the National Archives, Washington, D. C. 20408.

## Book Reviews

John Fahey, *Hecla, A Century of Western Mining*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1990. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. 264 pp.

The Hecla Mining Company has been a prominent fixture on the American mining scene for a century. It has evolved from a small mine in Idaho's Coeur d'Alene district to a diverse international corporation. John Fahey, professor emeritus of history at Eastern Washington University, in a concise, well focused volume, traces its fascinating career.

*Hecla, A Century of Western Mining* examines the story from the corporate board room and management out to the investors, miners and others who were part of the story. Some fascinating personalities seize center stage for a fleeting moment including stockholder Sarah Smith, the Hunt Brothers in the 1970s, manager James McCarthy and president Lester Randall. But first and foremost, this volume is the story of a mine, its development and its management.

Seldom have historians been granted the opportunity to examine a mining company's corporate history with such a variety of records to study. Fahey was fortunate and he made excellent use of his chance. *Hecla* underwrote the project, that did not mean the author was not critical, albeit in a gently manner. *Hecla* is a book that deserves to be read and contemplated for there is much here to be learned about mining management's thought process and operations and the industry's evolution from the 1880s to the 1990s.

Duane Smith, Fort Lewis College, Durango

*Palace Car Prince: A Biography of George Mortimer Pullman*. Liston Edgington Leyendecker. Niwot, Colorado: University Press of Colorado 1992. 323 pages, illustrations, notes, bibliography.

*Aficionados* of mining history might be disappointed in this book; only one of its dozen chapters has anything to do with the search for or extraction of minerals. Rather, it is the biography of George M. Pullman, who's name became synonymous with luxury sleeping cars in the late

nineteenth century. Smitten by the gold virus, the budding young Chicago entrepreneur followed the Colorado rush in the summer of 1860. By the time he liquidated his holdings nearly three years later, when mining was in the doldrums, he had been involved in a variety of business ventures, among them ranching, merchandising, freighting, sawmilling, banking, dealing in gold dust, several quartz mills and numerous mining schemes -- enterprises from which he made an estimated \$20,000 to \$100,000 during his Rocky Mountain interlude.

So much for mining in this volume, although Pullman apparently continued to invest in western mine property. After Chapter 3, historians of the mining scene have to wade through much extraneous material dealing with Pullman's activities as manufacturer of opulent sleeping cars in a booming post-Civil War Chicago. Here are the details of his rise as typical self-made captain of industry or Robber Baron -- he was depicted as both. Here is the story of the growth of his phenomenally successful Palace Car Company, its absorption of most of its competitors. Here is the careful depiction of the family's role in Chicago; the lifestyle of the elite, as Pullman hobnobbed with presidents and the wealthy alike. Here, too, is careful discussion of the building of Pullman, his model community for workers, south of the city; his unrelenting opposition to labor organization and collective bargaining; and finally, his tarnished reputation and bitterness resulting from his intransigence after his workers struck in 1894, when he cut their wages but not their rents.

This is an interesting, well-documented biography, sketched in great detail especially from family journals and letters. Even mining historians will find it enjoyable and profitable reading.

Clark C. Spence, Champaign

Daniel Fountain. *Michigan Gold Mining in the Upper Peninsula*. Duluth: Lake Superior Port Cities Inc, 1992. 163 pp., biblio., index, maps, glossary, illustrations.

In the late pre-Cambrian era the North American plate was fractured by the Keweenaw Rift, which extended from eastern Lake Superior to present-day Kansas. The great lava outpourings eventually

gave rise both to the Lake Superior iron ores and the native copper deposits of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Some of the Laurentian shield granites of the original plate south of the rift are exposed in Marquette and Gogebic counties, where they carry many small quartz veins and one substantial chimney of pyritic ore values. The prospecting and development of these gold occurrences is the theme of this book.

The pyrite ore chimney of the Ropes Mine near Ishpeming, containing perhaps 1.5 million tons of 0.15 ounces of gold per ton was the only profitable producer in the two counties. It was first promoted in the 1880's by Julius Ropes and local investors, worked, abandoned, and acquired by Calumet & Hecla in 1941. C & H explored it thoroughly, but let it go. It was purchased and worked by modern methods by the Callahan Mining Co. of Phoenix, Arizona, from 1975 to 1989. At its prime, the Ropes produced 35,000 ounces of gold per year. The many quartz veins, alas, were uniformly duds: their native gold values were found only at grass roots, and these "big end up" veins absorbed far more money than they ever gave up.

Mr. Fountain's monograph is well-researched, well-written, and copiously illustrated. He has gifts as an author, and the reviewer only wishes he had chosen for his subject a mineral district more worthy of his considerable talents. The chapter on the Ropes Mine is well worth the reader's attention: the remainder consists only of cautionary tales on the perils of investment by enthusiasts in initially good-looking mineral prospects.

Otis E. Young, Jr., Tempe, Arizona

Richard Francaviglia, *Hard Places: Reading the Landscape of America's Historic Mining Districts*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1991.

While numerous new works on mining history appear each year, they seldom consider the legacies that the industry left on the land. *Hard Places* fills that void and provides a scholarly, interdisciplinary study of America's mining landscapes. Richard Francaviglia provides an excellent synthesis of the nature of mining landscapes from the coal fields of West Virginia to the lead and zinc mines of the Mississippi Valley to the gold and silver mines of the West. Mining

regions are indeed "hard places," both visually and socially. As Francaviglia notes "These hard places are characterized by environmental abuse, pragmatism, and economic exploitation, and their landscapes do not often conceal these facts." While the various types of mining had different impacts on the land, all were inter-related and interconnected. Mining areas have a certain look, a visual identity, and that is what *Hard Places* is about. Francaviglia reveals the order in the seemingly chaos of mining landscapes, the causes that brought them into being and the technological and social forces that shaped them. He carefully highlights the similarities and differences from one mining area to another in terms of settlement patterns, house types, social classes, industrial structures, etc.

Working with the premise that mining landscapes reveal much about the people and industry that created them, Francaviglia identifies the visual clues of mining, explains how to distinguish them in the cultural landscape and shows what they can tell us. An effective framework divides the book into three parts: 1) identification- what are the visual clues that tell us an area has been mined and how do we read the landscape to find them; 2) interpretation -- what major processes/forces shaped the landscape of mining areas; 3) perception -- what do mining landscapes mean to us? He shows that as visual artifacts mining landscapes reveal deep-seated cultural attitudes toward land and life.

Extensive chapter notes, an ample bibliography, and an adequate index support the book's value as a reference source. More than fifty photographs and fifteen maps, both historical and contemporary, reinforce the text. Generally the maps and photos are well chosen and effective but some, like the topographic map of Tonapah, are reproduced very poorly. Several others (e.g. on pages 38, 106, and 132-133) needed to be redrafted at a larger scale. Many of the recent photos were apparently reproduced from color slides and lack good contrast. Historic and contemporary views of the same site would have enhanced the text in several places.

While the bibliography includes a diverse and wide ranging selection of works, the author omits number of relevant works. Of the hundreds of ghost town books, Francaviglia cites not one and



some, like Stanley Paher's *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, provide valuable insight into the nature of mining and the landscapes that it produced. Thomas C. Thompson's dissertation on the cultural history of Colorado mining towns, Eric Stoehr's book on Victorian architecture and society in Colorado's mining towns, Scott's and Rohe's articles on the mining landscapes of California and the West are but a few other examples. Especially surprising is the absence of James Biggins' "Historical Geography of the Georgetown, Colorado Silver Mining Area" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Colorado, 1972), a singular example of how to read and interpret a mining landscape.

Despite these omissions, *Hard Places* is well-written and organized. Its inter-disciplinary approach should appeal to a wide audience including cultural-historical geographers, historians, historical archeologists, architectural historians, and others. It should be particularly valuable to historic preservationists, cultural resource planners, and landscape architects.

Randall Rohe, Geography/Geology Department  
University of Wisconsin-Waukesha

Diane F. Britton, *The Iron and Steel Industry in the Far West: Irondale, Washington*. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1991. 226 pages, illustrations, bibliography, index.

Diane Britton has written a fascinating study of a much neglected topic. For information about the early iron and steel industry on the Pacific slope, this is the book to consult. The rise and fall of Irondale, a town on Washington's Puget Sound, is really a case study that offers insight into the larger problems the industry confronted in the far West, not just remote markets and transportation difficulties but also locating adequate supplies of the raw materials required to make iron and steel.

Many readers will find the overview chapter on the history of the industry in the far West, notably in Utah, Oregon, and Washington, particularly useful, and it includes a number of valuable comparisons with Colorado and eastern centers of iron and steel production. There is also a brief account of how a skilled work force was recruited to so remote a place as Irondale. Students of mining history will be drawn to Britton's discussion

of mining iron and other raw materials on the Pacific Coast. In addition, an excellent bibliography and index make this a handy reference volume.

Carlos A. Schwantes, University of Idaho

#### More Book Notes

MHA President Stan Dempsey sends the following: A distinguished father and son team has produced a short History of Mining for SME Mining Engineering Handbook, 2nd edition. This new edition of a mining industry classic has been five years in the making, with contributions from more than 200 experts throughout the industry. Willard Lacy is Professor Emeritus of Geology at James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, and a well-known exploration geologist. His son, John C. Lacy, is a prominent mining lawyer in Tucson and the current Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation.

The Lacy history starts with ancient times, and brings the story forward with emphasis on the role of minerals in society. Included is a comprehensive chronology of mining that shows in time-line regions of the world: the Mediterranean; Northern Europe; the Americas; and Australia. This comprehensive chronology will be useful to anyone seeking to understand world mining developments.

The *Handbook* is available from the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc., Publication Sales, IJSM, P. O. Box 625002, Littleton, Colorado 80162-5002

The Lead, South Dakota Preservation Commission has published *The Flavor of Lead, An Ethnic History*. The book discusses nine major ethnic groups that once lived in distinct neighborhoods of the mining camp. Each group had its own clubs, halls, businesses, and recreations. The well-illustrated book not only includes histories of the people but has recipes for a tasty pasty, no lead necessary, Finnish rye bread, potato cakes, Irish soda bread, and Italian Torchetti. The book is available from the Lead Historic Preservation Commission, 801 West Main Street, Lead, SD, for \$15.85. The photographs alone are worth that.

### Keweenaw National Historical Park

Legislation providing for the creation of Keweenaw National Historical Park was signed by President George Bush in October, 1992. The park's purpose is to interpret "the geological, aboriginal, sociological, cultural, technological, and corporate forces that relate the story of copper on the Keweenaw Peninsula." Don't rush to Michigan to visit the new park because it will be awhile before a visitor center is opened, but there are a host of places to visit already in the copper country of Upper Michigan.

The "Coppertown USA" mining museum at Calumet has exhibits and tours, as does the Arcadian Copper Mine and Delaware Copper Mine, both in Houghton, and the Quincy Mine Hoist in Hancock. For more information on the Keweenaw park write: Superintendent, Isle Royal National Park, 87 North Ripley Street, Houghton, MI 49931.

Members interested in reading about the Keweenaw should read Larry Lankton's *Cradle to Grave*, reviewed in the last newsletter. A host of titles are available on the topic of U. P. mining. Member Robert L. Fox carries most of the hard to find little pamphlets and guides to the district. Write Robert L. Fox Books, 1235 N. Westfield Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901 for his most recent list of hard to find (outside of Michigan) publications.

### The First Ghost Town

I have searched long for the first ghost town. I need to clarify here: my definition of ghost town is "tourist attraction" not abandoned village, as in Webster's. Pompeii was a ghost town (and yes someone has written a book titled *The Ghost Town of Pompeii*). What I am looking for is the earliest reference to tourists going to a "ghost town" in the American West just to see it. I asked Stan Paher and he offered up Nevada, quoting a John Muir article published in 1879. I checked the records of Muriel Wolle at the University of Colorado and the Denver Public Library. Her scrapbooks gave post-1915, Bodie being the first "ghost city."

Where was the term "ghost town" first used? It surely wasn't used by the mining camp fraternity (my grandfather -- a reputable source -- never used the term). A quick search of the standard reference tool *The Guide to Periodical Literature* revealed not a single article on ghost towns until 1937, when *Popular Mechanics* published an illustrated three page spread on "The Awakening of the Ghost Towns." A hiatus of a decade and a half was broken by a series of articles in *Sunset*, then *Travel* followed by a spate in *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Travel*, and *Todays Health*, of all places. By the 1950s articles on ghost towns were standard fare, and the first wave of ghost town books was beginning to roll off the presses. The editor, Bob Spude, would welcome any new leads on "the first ghost town"

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