

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 5 • December 1994 • Number 3

The Third International Meeting

This year's conference held at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden was a smashing success. David Neufeld of Parks Canada sent us the summary he submitted to his Canadian colleagues, which we gladly excerpt here: "The Third International Mining History Conference provided an exciting and informative forum for presentations and discussions with 300 professionals from around the world. Speakers included academic and public historians, miners, engineers and geologists, curators, archeologists, and mining heritage site staff representing heritage sites and agencies, land managers, mining companies, libraries, and universities. In three days of presentations and two days of field trips topics discussed included cultural resource management and interpretation of mining heritage sites, and historiographic issues."

David describes the sessions as well as the field trips: "The conference included two field trips, a half day trip to a railway and mining heritage site, and a full day visiting the Western Museum of Mining and Industry and two historic mining towns being rejuvenated in different ways [David took the Cripple Creek tour rather than the simultaneous Leadville tour].

"The visit to the Colorado Historical Society's Georgetown Loop Railroad and Lebanon Silver Mine provided a fascinating view of a mining area adjusting to change. Originally built to serve the silver mines of the area in

1877, the railroad became a tourist venture after the 1890s collapse in the price of silver. Shutdown in the 1930s, the track and one of the silver mines were redeveloped as a mining heritage tourist venture by the state historical society in the 1970s and 1980s.

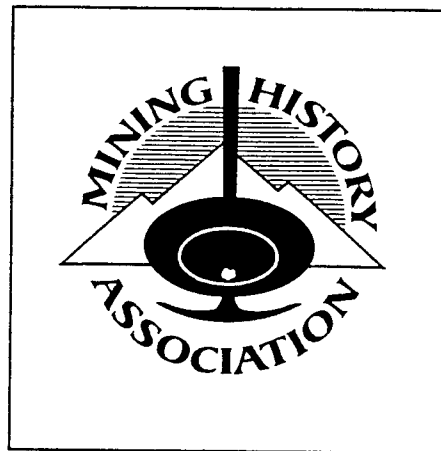
"The Western Museum of Mining and Industry is also a recent institution providing interpretation of regional mining history, a reconstructed operating stamp mill from a nearby lode mine, a collection of operating engines and pumps from locations across the US, and a research library on western mining. High in the mountains above the museum two small mining communities, Cripple Creek and Victor, are coming to terms with change. Gold was discovered in the area in the 1890s and production continued until the early 1960s. Recently heap leach mining has revived the area. Besides mining Cripple Creek has opened its doors to legalized gambling. Several large commercial casinos now operate in the community dominating its main street. The town of Victor, the site of one of the heap leach mines, has some mining staff. It is slowly developing a core of seasonal tourist services and enhancing its interpretation of existing mining heritage resources as a tourist resource. In many respects it seems like Dawson City about twenty years ago.

Many of the ideas exchanged at the conference continue to be discussed. It is hoped that an interchange across borders can continue. The papers are being reviewed for publication by the

University Press of Colorado. The historic preservation papers are being considered for publication by the Society of Industrial Archeology. At the conclusion of the conference, participants from Latin America offered to assist in the organization of the Fourth international meeting in Chile, around 1998. For more information contact Adolpho Ybanez Santa Maria, Director, Centro de Estudios Abate Molina, Casilla 78, Correo 55, Santiago, Chile.

Congratulations

Past President of the Mining History Association Stan Dempsey received a brass statue of a miner for his presentation on Agricola's *De Re Metallica* at the annual meeting of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum held in Phoenix. Stan and his staff at Royal Gold were major supporters of the Third International conference and deserve a big thanks.



President's Page

"All Roads Lead to Leadville," wrote author and illustrator Mary Halleck Foote as she journeyed to join her husband Arthur in the booming, Colorado silver mining camp. But not now. Now all roads lead to Grass Valley and Nevada City, California, where the Mining History Association will meet June 1, 1995, Thursday to June 4, 1995, Sunday. We will start with a reception on the 1st, followed by paper sessions, banquet, and end with an optional tour on Sunday the 4th.

Mary will be there to greet you at least in spirit since after leaving the splendors of Leadville she followed husband Arthur to Grass Valley, where he was manager of the North Star Mine starting in 1895. The couple later retired there and Wallace Stegner wrote a novel about the lady's adventures. Titled Angle of Repose, it won for Stegner the Pulitzer (a more factual portrayal is her autobiography, A Victorian Gentlewoman, edited by Rodman Paul).

Much of the two towns the Footes knew are still there; you can see and sample California's mining heritage first hand. We will have the opportunity to tour the heart of the Mother Lode country, see this memorable landscape, and be within a short journey of some of the famous placer mining camps, maybe even visit the spirit of Dame Shirley, another woman of letters.

So, mark your calendars and make plans to join us in June. Hope to see you there!

Duane Smith
Durango, Colorado

Thanks

Art Williams, member and commercial artist of Wheaton, Illinois, designed the Mining History Association logo appearing on the front page. Art donated his time and talent, which is greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Memorials

John Townley, editor and friend of the Mining History Association, died September 18, 1994. He was 62. John was responsible for organizing and creating the first journal for the association, a task he accomplished well. The 1994 Annual appeared last June much to his quiet, untiring effort. He was an active member from the beginning of the association.

Many mining historians first met John Townley through his writings, especially the well researched, scholarly pieces that appeared in the Nevada Historical Society quarterly during the 1970s. At that time, he was director of the society after having given up a career as project engineer for the Atomic Energy Commission in Las Vegas. Members of the Nevada Historical Society credit him with redirecting the society toward a revitalized professionalism and set the course that the society follows today. He was active in local, Reno history as well as the Oregon-California Trail Association. His publications include Conquered Provinces: Nevada Moves Southeast, 1864-1871 (1973), Turn this Water into Gold: The Story of the Newlands Project (1977), Alfalfa Country: Nevada Land, Water and Politics in the 19th Century (1979), Tough Little Town on the Truckee: Reno before 1900 (1983), and The Trail West: A Bibliography to Western American Trails, 1841-1869 (1988). His The Overland Stage was just published. He had a bibliography of the mining west in preparation.

At the Mining History Association meeting held in Albuquerque October 21, the board established the John Townley award to recognize the best article published on mining history during the previous year as well as to commemorate the essays and other contributions made by John Townley. John was a quiet, hard worker, as well as a gentleman with a warm smile and helping hand for buffs or junior members in the history field.

Don Bufkin. The association lost a founding member in the passing of Don Bufkin in Tucson, Arizona, March 8, 1994. He was 66. Don had attended association meetings and served on the first nomination committee. He is best known for his cartographic skill, which he used to illustrate numerous books over the years. His co-authored, with Pic Walker, historic atlas of Arizona set the model for recent western state historic atlases. He was a leader in the Arizona Historical Society. He had a keen interest in southwestern mines and railroads and was a stickler for accuracy over the "Wild West," loose interpretations of writers. Don, with maps and texts in hand, was at his best on field trips to some isolated ghost town, railroad siding, or Colorado River landing. His excitement and enthusiasm was contagious.

Organization Notes

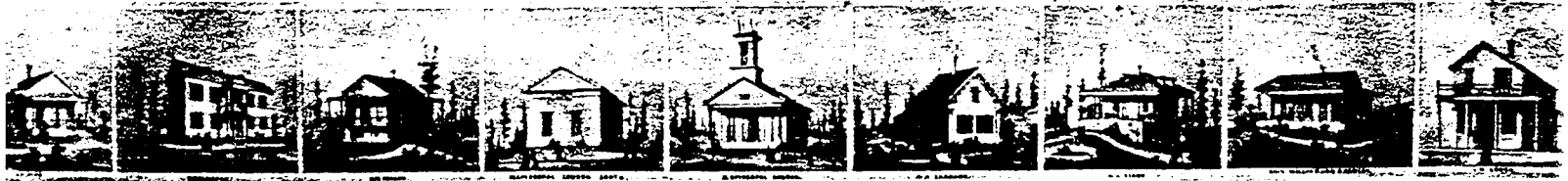
The Mining History Association board met at the Mining History breakfast held October 21 in Albuquerque as part of the Western History Conference. The board discussed a number of important issues, including the journal, which is noted elsewhere. The board approved the raising of the annual dues to \$25 to cover the costs of the journal and newsletter. The board also approved the proposal to meet in Rossland, British Columbia for the 1996 conference.

The Mining History Association Newsletter

Denver, Colorado

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$10 per year. Please send dues to MHA, Post Office Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215.

Submissions for publication in the newsletter are welcome. Write to Robert L. Spude, Editor.



CALL FOR PAPERS

SIXTH MEETING
OF THE
MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

at the historic National Hotel
Nevada City, California
July 2-3, 1995

The Program Committee for the Nevada City 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 March 1, 1995.

1995 Program Committee:

William H. Mulligan
1995 Program Committee Chair
Department of History
Murray State University
Murray, Kentucky 42071-3311

Linda Green
Death Valley National Monument
Furnace Creek, California

Rolla Queen
Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
Riverside, California

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE HISTORY OF MINING

We have compiled the following list of articles and dissertations which were published in the last few years. This list continues two previous lists published in this newsletter (March 1992 and May 1993). The scope covers all types of mining in the U.S. Special thanks to everyone who sent suggestions for the list, especially William H. Mulligan, Jr. of Murray State University in Kentucky, who provided numerous citations related to mining in Michigan.

Lysa Wegman-French

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- Spence, Clark C. "'I Was a Stranger and Ye Took Me In.'" *Montana* 44, no. 1 (Winter 1994): 42-53. Con-artistry in western mining.
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Biographies of Candidates

Vice-President (President Elect)

Noel Kirshenbaum, a native of San Francisco, has degrees in metallurgy, metallurgical engineering, and mineral economics from Stanford University. In his career, he has been associated with the mining, minerals, and metals industries, has taught, and has conducted research on process development. His consulting work has taken him to various mining centers in the Western Hemisphere; he is presently with Placer Dome, one of the world's largest gold producers. Noel is interested in the history of processes and has completed research on dredging, placer technology, and quicksilver. He has assisted with historic mining site evaluations. A charter member of the Mining History Association, Noel has given papers at its conferences in Boise and Golden. He is also a member of the major mining engineering associations and E. Clampus Vitus.

Board Member Candidates

Richard Francaviglia did his undergraduate work at the University of California at Riverside and his M.A. and Ph.D. in geography at the University of Oregon. His life-long interest in geology, mineralogy, and geography have led to extensive field work in America's historic mining districts, from Minnesota to Arizona. He has worked in the State Historic Preservation Office of Ohio, served as director of the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum, and is presently the Director of the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography at the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a charter member of the Mining History Association, has served on the nominating committee, and has given papers as well as published "Black Diamonds and Vanishing Ruins: Reconstructing the Historic Landscape of Thurber Texas," in the 1994 Annual. His evaluations of historic mining landscapes was synthesized into Hard Places: Reading the Landscape of America's Historic Mining Districts (1991).

Gene Gressley is Director Emeritus of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming. Born in Indiana, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon and taught at the University of Wyoming from 1956 until his retirement in 1994. He has published seven books, including Bankers and Cattleman (1966), and authored twenty scholarly articles, including works on the mining frontier. Gene is a past president of the Western History Association, has served on many boards, and has received many awards, including the Mining History Association's Rodman Paul Award, given for his creation of one of the best archives for mining history research located at the University of Wyoming. He is a charter member of the association and chaired the first nominating committee.

Logan Hovis, a miner turned historian, works in the Alaska Regional Office of the National Park Service, which is compiling histories of the mining areas of Alaska. After working as sampler, mucker, trammer, driller, and blaster at mines from West Virginia to British Columbia, Logan entered the University of British Columbia and earned an M. A. in history. He has published on the history of mining in British Columbia. His current interests include industrial archeology, cultural landscapes, and the legal and technological history of mining. He is a charter member of the Mining History Association and has given papers at its annual conference.

Ron Limbaugh, raised on an Idaho farm, early became interested in mining history by the reminders across the landscape as well as while earning his Ph.D. at the University of Idaho under William S. Greever. Since 1966, he has taught at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. He also served as curator of manuscripts and in 1989 became the first director of the John Muir Center for Regional Studies at the university. He has organized conferences on the gold rush, published books and articles which deal with aspects of mining history, and has a deep interest in the environmental aspects of mining. His most recent work is a co-authored, book length manuscript on the history of Calaveras County, California's lumber and mining history. Ron is a charter member of the Mining History Association, has given papers at its conferences and published "Making the Most of Experience: The Career of William J. Loring, Nevada Mining Engineer," in the 1994 Annual.

Karen Vendl, a geologist working in the environmental field, earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She specializes in economic geology and water resource management and is a partner in a consulting firm in La Grange, Illinois. She became interested in mining history while in college and this interest grew, especially while studying and touring the camps of Colorado during the past ten years. Karen and her geologist husband Mark are charter members of the association and have participated in the annual conferences at Leadville, Boise, Lead, and Golden. They are presently researching a history of mining in Breckenridge, Colorado.

Nominating Committee Candidates

Eric Clements earned an M. A. from the University of Delaware and is a doctoral candidate at Arizona State University. His dissertation topic is a case study of two Arizona mining towns, Bisbee and Tombstone, especially the bust side of the boom and bust cycle. His paper given at the Leadville conference has been published as "Mining Health and Safety Reform in Arizona, 1901-1921," in the 1994 Annual.

Ed Hunter earned his mining engineer degree from the Colorado School of Mines. He has worked as miner, engineer, and manager for mining companies from Victor, Colorado to Nome, Alaska. Ed has long been interested in the preservation of the mining past, is on the board of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Colorado Springs, and is a charter member of the Mining History Association. He gave a paper on the Cripple Creek district at the Golden conference. He is presently consultant on cultural resources for the Pikes Peak Mining Company, Victor, Colorado.

Liston Leyendecker is Professor of History at Colorado State University. He did his undergraduate work at the University of New Mexico and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Denver. He has been active in historic preservation, especially in Georgetown, Colorado, serves on the board of the Colorado Historical Society, and was a charter member of the Mining History Association. His publications include: The Pelican-Dives Feud: A Study in Frustration and Terror (1985) and Palace Car Prince: A Biography of George Mortimer Pullman (1992).

David Neufeld is the Parks Canada historian for the Historic Sites of the Yukon and western Arctic regions of Canada. He is involved in the preservation and interpretation of Klondike sites and Native history, and presented his research at the recent conference in Golden. His publications include: Make It Pay! - Gold Dredge #4 (1994), and An Annotated Bibliography of Placer Gold Mining, 1896-1966 (1994).

Lysa Wegman-French completed her undergraduate work at the University of Oregon and earned an M. A. from the University of Colorado. Her interest in mining history began while researching mining history for the Aspen Historical Society's efforts to preserve and interpret the Holden Lixiviation mill, and grew with field work for the National Park Service at mining sites in the California desert and in Deadwood, South Dakota. She is a charter member of the Mining History Association, has helped arrange the annual conferences, and prepares the annual review of articles for the newsletter.

Spoehr, Alexander. "Hawai'i and the Gold Rush: George Allan of the Hudson's Bay Company Reports on His 1848 Pursuit of Captain John Sutter." *Hawaiian Journal of History* 26 (1992): 123-32.

Spude, Catherine Holder. "Bachelor Miners and Barbers' Wives: The Common People of Skagway in 1900." *Alaska History* 6, no. 2 (1991): 16-29.

Stein, Judith. "Race and Class Consciousness Revisited." *Reviews in American History* 19, no. 4 (1991): 551-60.

Suggs, George G., Jr. "Child Labor in the Tiff Mines of Washington County, Missouri." *Missouri Historical Review* 87 (July 1993), 357-71.

Sullivan, Joseph. "Sourdough Radicalism: Labor and Socialism in Alaska, 1905-1920." *Alaska History* 7, no. 1 (1992): 1-15.

Sutphen, Debra. "'Too Hard a Nut to Crack': Peter D. Berry and the Battle for Free Enterprise at the Grand Canyon, 1890-1914." *Journal of Arizona History* 32, no. 2 (1991): 153-72.

Swope, Karen K. "With Infinite Toil: Historical Archaeology in the Beveridge Mining District, Inyo County, California." Ph.D. diss., University of California, Riverside, 1993.

Thomas, Joseph M. "'Peculiar Soil': Mining the Early American Imagination." *Early American Literature* 27, no. 3 (1992): 151-70. Mining was not compatible with the 17th and 18th century utopian views of the American venture.

Turner, Arthur W. "Charles H. Moyer and the Michigan Copper Strike, 1913-1914." *Michigan Historical Review* 17, no. 2 (1991): 1-19.

Tilby, Wilma B. N. "Jakob Brand's Register of Dutchtown, Utah's Lost German Mining Colony." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 62, no. 1 (Winter 1994): 53-70.

Van Vugt, William E. "Welsh Emigration to the U.S.A. during the Mid-Nineteenth Century." *Welsh History Review* 15, no. 4 (1991): 545-61. Most were coal miners bound for Pennsylvania.

Vergobbi, David James. "Hybrid Journalism: Bridging the Frontier/Commercial Cusp on the Coeur d'Alene Mining Frontier." Ph.D. diss., University of Washington, 1993.

Webb, Roy. "Robert Brewster: The Man and His River." *Canyon Legacy* no. 11/12 (1991): 8-18. Superintendent of an unsuccessful mining operation in Glen Canyon, Utah.

Welsch, John R. and Daniela Triadan. "The Canyon Creek Turquoise Mine, Arizona." *Kiva* 56, no. 2 (1991): 145-64.

Williams, David. "The Great Gold Revival: Georgia's Second Gold Rush, 1899-1906." *Atlanta History* 35, no. 3 (1991): 31-41.

Wong, Thomas Toone. "The Chinese Response to the American Environment, 1849-1902." Ph.D. diss., Columbia University, 1992.

Yeh, Chiou-Ling. "The 1913-1914 Copper Strike of Northern Michigan." M.A. thesis, Michigan State University, 1993.

Zellick, Anna. "'We All Intermingled': The Childhood Memories of South Slavic Immigrants in [coal mining] Red Lodge and Bearcreek, Montana, 1904-1943." *Montana* 44, no. 3 (Summer 1994): 34-45.

Zhi, Liping. "The Chinese on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier: The Boise Basin, Idaho, 1863-1910." Ph.D. diss. University of New Mexico, 1994.

1995 JOURNAL CALL FOR PAPERS.

The 1995 edition of the Mining History Association's journal is scheduled for the summer of 1995. Articles on any aspect of mining are welcome. Mail manuscripts to:

Chris Huggard, History Department,
University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87131.

Dr. Chris Huggard of the University of New Mexico will follow in the footsteps of John Townley and has taken over the responsibilities for the 1995 Mining History Association journal. Charles Hughes will assist with the production end.

Lee Behrens will continue to prepare a section on Mining Museums and Exhibits. Lee asks that members submit information about new museums, exhibits, updates, interpretation, or videos to him at the Colorado Historical Society, P. O. Box 781, Georgetown, CO 90444.

Paul Award

During the Monday night reception of the Third International Mining History Conference, president Stan Dempsey gave Gene Gressley the Mining History Association's Rodman Paul Award for outstanding contributions to mining history. Gene Gressley is Director Emeritus of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming, a preeminent depository and research collection of mining archives. He gained the Ph.D. at the University of Oregon and joined the faculty of the University of Wyoming in 1956. He has published seven books, including Bankers and Cattleman (1966), and authored twenty scholarly articles, including works on the mining frontier, such as is essay on the Frisco mine of Utah. He also edited Robert Livermore's journal on Colorado's camps. Many researchers' efforts have benefitted from Gene's skill at lassoing a wide range of mining related papers and documents, now housed at the University of Wyoming.

Historic Preservation/Museums

"Always the brides maid, never the bride" might aptly describe the attention given Utah's **mining history**. Surrounded by States whose mining history gave the region a sort of me too moniker...Park City, a silver camp almost as big as Virginia City, Nevada or the glorious mines of Eureka, almost as big as Leadville, Colorado, or ... you get the picture. Well, that image is about to change. Wilson Martin of the Utah State Historic Preservation Office sent us the goals and visions of the "Utah Mining Heritage Project," a new initiative to celebrate, preserve and interpret the state's mining heritage. A diverse group met in Salt Lake City July 20 to set several immediate tasks, including a list of preservation or interpretation projects. Kennecott, which needs no introduction as a mining company significant in the history of mining technology, is a partner in the effort. A copy of the workshops results or of the 11 page list can be obtained from the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, 3 Triad, Suite 350, Salt Lake City, UT 84180. Maybe Utah will finally receive due attention and be placed in the broader context of the mining past.

Correction: On a related note, in a past newsletter, when announcing the Tintic Historical Society's map offer, we bemoaned the absence of histories of the Tintic district, Utah. However, we are embarrassed to say, we momentarily forgot the good work of Philip F. Notarianni, of the Utah Historical Society. He completed surveys of the district, an exemplary National Register nomination, and articles, plus a well illustrated history of the district, Faith, Hope and Prosperity, the Tintic Mining District, published by the Tintic Historical Society, Eureka, Utah. Besides the publications and museum efforts, the society with the help of Phil and the state abandoned mine lands program, saw to the preservation and

interpretation of the Bullion-Beck Headframe, one of the major producers in the district.

Bodie Update. The passage of the California Desert Bill last October included a provision establishing a special preservation district around the ghost town, now-California State Park of Bodie. A proposed open pit mine on Bodie Bluff threatened to impact the setting and historic remnants of the old gold camp and environs. The act requires the Bureau of Land Management to protect historic resources over its multiple use mandate. This is the first time federal legislation has been enacted specifically to ensure the preservation of a Western mining camp.

The Crystal Mill, probably the most photographed industrial structure in Colorado (a pen and ink sketch of the wooden structure was used on the name tags for our conference in Golden last June), is in need of repairs. Volunteers from the Gunnison County Historical Society plan to patch the roof and shore-up the foundation. A grant from the Colorado Historical Society will help but they need to raise a matching share. Ten dollars will buy a roll of tar paper or a few more wood shingles. Donations can be sent to Gunnison County Historical Society, 110 S. Adams, Gunnison, CO 81230.

Preservation of the Holden Lixiviation Works site in Aspen, Colorado continues. The city completed a master plan to protect the archeological resources of the mill site as well as interpret the remains as part of the city's trail system. Built in 1890, the mill closed with the panic of 1893 and was remodeled as a concentrator. All the buildings were gone by the 1930s, but the sampler remains and is used as a mining and ranching interpretive center. Copies of the master plan are available from the Aspen City Planning Office. Archeological documentation was completed by Jonathan Horn of the

Alpine Archeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado.

The proposed construction of Disney's America, an American History theme park in rural Virginia, has caused quite a brouhaha among those who interpret and preserve the nation's past. In writing the Disney folk about how Disney's America will interpret the mining past as well as protect the rural values of the Piedmont, your association received a packet of materials (mostly clippings) endorsing the proposal, but only scant particulars. Nothing was mentioned of interpreting the mining theme. At latest reports the project has been canceled. If you wish to write Disney for information please let us know what they send out. Write: The Walt Disney Company, 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521-1000.

Gambling has been a curse and a God send to Central City, Colorado, the new quarter-slot mecca in Gilpin County. The Central City Opera Association, care-taker of many of the fragile historic structures within the community, is doing much good with its sinful profits from the Teller House one-armed bandits. The historic homes owned by the association have received repairs and upgrades. The 1860s MacFarland Foundry has been restored and is being re-used for storage by the association. The work of the opera association, unfortunately, has proven again to be the exception instead of the rule. Other properties are being remodeled beyond recognition, the historic railroad has been removed to please potential developers, and the long-promised restoration of the Grand Central Hoist House has seen another season pass with nary a nail hammered.

The Arizona Mining Museum completed a successful summer with its "Minerals in Society" education program. Designed for secondary schools, the museum's instructors roamed the state giving lessons on how mining and

mineral resources are part of everyone's life. Kids get to identify mining products in a "Bag and Tag" process that is fun and sometimes edible. For more information write Mason Coggins, director, at Department of Mines and Mineral Resources, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3210 (or better yet, write Mason and ask how to "buy a brick" to help support the museum's activities).

Help for Researchers

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry has put their 11,000 volume library onto a computer catalogue available to researchers across the country. The library has a prize collection of machinery catalogues, mining manuals and handbooks, and other ephemera that other libraries too often tossed. They are continuing to add to the library and have established the 59ers Club to help support library activities. To be a charter member send \$59 to the WMM&I at 1025 North Gate Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. The museum also has an active aluminum can recycling program, which goes toward the feed and up-keep of Molly and Polly, the guard mules.

The American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming announced a new List Serve program to assist with locating information about mining collections. The name of the program is Historical-Geology. In order to subscribe to the system, just enter the following information into your e-mail program: Send to: mailserv@uwyo.edu Message: subscribe historical-geology. Within a few minutes you should receive two messages. The first adds your name and the second welcomes you to the system. Historians can search for collections as well as discuss mining history topics and issues. For more information contact Rick Ewig, Manager/Reference Services, 307-766-6385 or e-mail: REWIG@uwyo.edu

Conferences

Members of the Russian Academy of Science are organizing a conference to celebrate 250 years of gold mining in the Urals. A call for papers has been received and papers are due March 1, 1995. The conference will be limited to 120 people. For more information write Dr. Eugene Logonov, Russian Academy of Sciences (Urals Branch), 56 R. Luxemburg St., Yekaterinburg, G3P340, Russia 620219. I would highly recommend sending letters via Fax: 3432 224 230. Dr. Logonov was at the Third International Conference and gave an excellent paper on the preservation of a Russian salt works. The conference will include tours of mining sites.

Book Notes

Greg Drew, coauthor with J. E. Connell of Cornish Beam Engines in South Australian Mines (Adelaide, 1993), sent a copy as well as a description of his efforts with the South Australia Department of Mines and Energy in preserving or interpreting the remaining beam engines. The well illustrated, large-format book provides an overview on the invention and dissemination of Cornish beam engine technology, especially to the Kapunda mine, Burra mine, and some thirteen other Australian mines. The text includes present condition of the sites and efforts to preserve eight, especially the Morphetts Enginehouse (1858, 1861), a part of the Burra Mine Museum. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Mines and Energy, P. O. Box 151, Eastside, South Australia 5063.

Federal Archeology, published by the Archeological Assistance Division of the National Park Service, has a special issue on Industrial Archeology, Summer 1994, vol. 7, no. 2. Included in the magazine is David Andrews, "Written in Rock and Rust," a splendid essay on the recording of mining sites in the California desert country.

Ghost towns continue to receive attention from presses, large and small. Among the latest to enter the publication arena are the people that bring you Arizona Highways. The beautifully illustrated, including color photographs and graphics, Arizona Ghost Towns and Mining Camps describes former glory camps from Oatman in the northwest to Gleason in the southeast. There is nothing new here, but the photographs are superlative and the text by Philip Varney, respected guide-book author, is accurate and entertaining. In the small publisher category is Four Peaks Press' Arizona's Amazing Towns by Richard Dillon. The book is an eclectic mix of town histories from Oraibi to Phoenix, with slightly irreverent tales about camps, such as Oatman, Ajo, Bisbee, and Jerome. The book takes the reader up to the present, with stories of New Age arrivals, marijuana growers (taking over ghost towns!), and effects of yuppies. Some former ghost towns, or near ghost towns, have become major tourist destinations, especially for the artistically inclined. The book can be ordered from Four Peaks Press, P. O. Box 27401, Tempe, Arizona 85285. Cost, \$8.95.

Colorado's Red Mountain district's history has been overlooked by writers because of the better-known, nearby districts of Telluride, Ouray, and Silverton. P. David Smith has remedied the situation with Mountains of Silver, the Story of Colorado's Red Mountain District. A writer focusing on southwest Colorado, Smith has detailed the discovery and opening of mines, the development of transportation, and the growth of towns, a series of woodframe camps that grew and went bust with the silver and gold mines of the district. Red Mountain boomed during the silvery 1880s, but like so many districts collapsed in the silver crash and Panic of 1893. The 221 page book is detailed and is enlivened with quotes from Dave Day, the opinionated editor of the Solid Muldoon. The book is available from

Pruett Publishers, Boulder, Colorado for \$18.95.

The University of Alaska Press has reissued Terrence Cole's Crooked Past, the History of a Frontier Mining Camp: Fairbanks, Alaska. E. T. Barnette, fortune hunter, gold seeker, and steamboat captain, had the good fortune to land his boat and set up a trading post at the right point on the Chena River, near where Felix Pedro discovered gold in 1902. Barnette founded Fairbanks and prospered with the stampede to "the second Klondike." Cole retells the lively antics of Barnette, his rise to fame and fortune, and then the collapse of his bank and his unresolved disappearance, reportedly in Mexico. Cole traces Barnette's nearly century old trail and presents a scholarly and readable account of not only Barnette but the early years of the Fairbanks district. (Barnette, Cole found, died in Los Angeles in 1933.) The 163 page book is well illustrated and includes maps, notes and bibliography.

Richard Peterson in Manifest Destiny in the Mines: A Cultural Interpretation of Anti-Mexican Nativism in California, 1848 - 1853 reviews National trends, such as Manifest Destiny, anti-Catholic movements, and nativism to help explain the discrimination of Mexican miners in the California gold fields. Violence and atrocities against property have been described by many writers, but Dr. Peterson helps put the events into a broader context than just the economic. The 125 page manuscript includes an annotated bibliography. Typed and bound, paper copies may be obtained for \$11 from R and E Research Associates, 4843 Mission Street, San Francisco 94112.

Placer mining was more than a prospector with a pan and a shovel. Two new books highlight the technological innovations that brought placer mining to a heavy industrial state at the turn of the century. Maureen Nicholls, Gold Pan Mining Company

and Shops, Breckenridge, Colorado details the revival of the placer field on the Blue River with the introduction of major hydraulic works, followed by the installation of an innovative elevator system for lifting gravels into long sluices. Incorporated in 1899, the Gold Pan Mining Company worked the placer gravels with mixed results and by 1906 had ceased operation. But the company reorganized and survived by serving the mining community with its extensive shops and electric plant. The promoter of the company was the town photographer and left excellent views of the mine technology, reproduced well here. The 64 page book is available from Quandry Press, P. O. Box 566, Breckenridge, Colorado 80424. David Neufeld and Patrick Habiluk describe the innovations of gold dredging in the Far North in Make It Pay! Gold Dredge #4, Klondike, Yukon, Canada. Dredge #4 was built in 1942 to mine the rich gravels of Bonanza Creek in the Klondike. The dredge remains today, a major part of Parks Canada's Klondike Historic Sites, Dawson. The authors give the background of dredging, but the majority of the text describes the construction, operation, and restoration of this massive dredge. The triumph of raising the dredge in order to display it is a good introduction to the trials of historic preservation. The book is well-illustrated and contains notes and statistics. Copies are available from Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 713 South Third Street, Missoula, Montana, 59801.

Western Places is a quarterly magazine on the mining camps and ghost towns of the Far West. Alan Patera, editor and primary author, sent his most recent edition, 60 pages of text and graphics on the Nevada boom town of Rhyolite. Previous issues have highlighted the 1860s gold camps of Auburn, Oregon, Florence and Placerville, Idaho, the quicksilver mines of New Almaden, California, and a series of ghost towns in Nevada. The magazine has a large

format and contains many historic photographs, maps and other graphics. Subscriptions cost \$25 per year for four issues. For more, write Western Places, Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035.

Mining History does not always appear in history journals. Attesting to this fact is the work of consulting geologist William Chenoweth, an expert of not only the geology of the Colorado Plateau, but its mining history as well. His publications though have appeared in that body of government reports commonly called "grey literature." Recently he sent us two of his professional papers with much historic matter: "The Geology and Production History of the Uranium Deposits in the White Canyon Mining District, San Juan County, Utah," Utah Geological Survey, Misc. Publication 93-3 (March 1993) and "Vanadium Mining in the Carrizo Mountains, 1942-1947, San Juan County, New Mexico, and Apache County, Arizona," New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Open-File Report No. 378 (January 1991).

June Peterson Howard, a retired Boulder, Colorado public school teacher has pieced together stories and memories about the small gold camp of Sunshine. She spent summers at her family's cabin in the area and began to learn of the camp's history through its old timers and historic buildings. This is a book about people, schools and the social life, realizing that the ups and downs of mining sustained the area from the 1870s through the 1930s. The book is well illustrated with some splendid small mine scenes. Stories of Sunshine, Life in a Mining Camp is available for \$8.95 from the publisher, the Book Lode, 721 Francis Street, Longmont, CO 80501.

The October 1994 issue of the New Mexico Historical Quarterly, a special issue on twentieth century mining history, was just received. Edited by Chris Huggard, the new editor of the Mining History Association journal, the

issue begins with a well thought out piece by A. Yvette Huginnie on the image of the mining engineer and the Mexican worker, and their interplay, in the copper mines of southern Arizona. Kevin Fernlund reviews the importance of the uranium fields of the Colorado Plateau during the Cold War. Chris Huggard's piece on the clean air debate in recent New Mexico shows respectable research and fair conclusions. Arthur Gomez adds an overview photographic essay and the Gene Gressley reviews Sally Zanjani's Goldfield and John Fahey's history of the Hecla corporation in a thought piece on twentieth century mining historiography. Elizabeth Jameson provides a tantalizing call for mining historians to move into the twentieth century and to use the methods and paradigm shift suggested by the New History. Copies are \$6 from the New Mexico Historical Review, Mesa Vista 1013, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1186.

Celebrations

The Alaska Gold Rush Centennial was officially kicked off by the state legislature in Juneau by generously funding \$50,000 worth of planning for the big event, 1996-1998 (the centennial however will run from 1994 to 2004). A task force was established and 26 projects are underway, from preserving photographs and publishing diaries or histories, to developing displays, interpretive exhibits and educational tools. The task force is seeking widespread involvement. If you wish to learn more write Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Co-chair Judy Bittner, Office of History and Archeology, Alaska Division of Parks, P. O. Box 107001, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7001.

Tom Noel led Colorado historians in a two day "Panning the Past" celebration in Breckridge last October. Tom is planning the trial of Alfred Packer for next fall. Write him (Tom, not Al) for details: Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217.

Collectibles

Are you looking for a miner's candle holder or silver specimens? Interested in stock certificates or prospectuses of promising mines (that didn't keep their promise)? Bob Weldin of the Miner's Quest has sent us another of his catalogues. You may have remembered Bob at the conference in Golden, with his stack of miner's lamps, gold scales, and powder boxes. He has more to offer. Write him for a catalogue at W, 3015 Weile, Spokane, WA 99208.

At the other end of the northern tier mining country is Bob Fox, who can send you a catalogue of items from the copper country of Michigan or the lead district of the upper Mississippi. Want a copper specimen from the Keeweenaw? Write Bob at 1235 N. Westfield Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901.

Next time Mining History Association members visit Ketchikan, Alaska be sure to drop by Poker Creek Gold. It offers some of the best collections of placer gold nuggets for sale of any store. Not only that, you can talk mining with owner Brad Mohre, a not so old placer miner himself. The store also offers mining memorabilia and souvenirs. While out of the way, it is definitely worth a stop (just take the Alaska State Ferry from Bellingham, Washington for a two day inside passage cruise to the Ketchikan dock and then, regaining your land legs, and saunter up Creek Street, a street remembered for its bars, brothels, and bug houses, now given way to tourist shops). Brad is at P. O. Box 9473, 18 Creek Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Book Reviews

Doris Ostrander Dawdy, George Montague Wheeler: The Man and the Myth (Athens: Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, 1993). 122 pp., notes, bib., and illus.

George Montague Wheeler was an enigmatic Lieutenant who oversaw military surveys of vast areas of the West. Doris Ostrander Dawdy writes an expose of the government explorer who, according to Dawdy, had a "hidden agenda" that flawed and compromised his surveys: mining interests that led him to focus on reconnaissance of fledgling mining districts in Nevada, Arizona, and Utah, rather than conduct objective surveys and interpretations of the large areas over which he had charge.

Until the last twenty years, western historians had viewed the Wheeler Survey as more or less acceptable under the circumstances of the hostile conditions and difficult weather. Dawdy continues a deeper revisionist scrutiny. She pieces together her biography from official reports, diaries, and records and has filled in many gaps. In the War Department papers she found evidence of mismanagement and difficulties among the crew. Wheeler made unreasonable schedules and imperious demands. She describes the personalities well, including geologist F. V. Hayden. One of the more interesting aspects of the book is a "roll call" of eighteen of Wheeler's contemporaries, biographical sketches that place Wheeler and his time in context.

She also uncovers the controversial tale of his involvement with the Lyons and Wheeler Mining Company, part owned by his brother Major Willard Wheeler. Willard had been employed by the survey and George Wheeler was listed as discover of one of the company's claims. California newspapers criticized and questioned a government surveyor's involvement and labeled the Wheeler survey as a "private prospecting expedition." Dawdy's

tracing of the mining company's fortunes failed to discover any benefit for Wheeler. But, in the 1860s and 1870s, the distinction between public life and private gain we characterize as conflict of interest today was far hazier. Nineteenth century explorers worked hand in hand with entrepreneurs to exploit the West.

For this reader, Wheeler emerges not as a scoundrel, but as a man grasping for a place in history. Wheeler's journals are still valuable as witnesses to an isolated part of the West. That Wheeler could not manage scientists, especially geologists, is tragic. He would die destitute in New York and, only after the intervention of one his old field crew, was buried at West Point, in recognition of twenty years of service to his country. Dawdy's book, though critical of Wheeler, does shed light on a man who will remain an important figure in western exploration.

Richard Francaviglia
University of Texas at Arlington

Tappan Adney, The Klondike Stampede (Vancouver: University of British Columbia, 1994), xxii, 471 pp., illus.
Michael Gates, Gold at Fortymile Creek, Early Days in the Yukon (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1994), xv, 201 pp., notes, bib., illus.

"Dawson is an animated scene, and one upon which the newcomer gazed in wonder," wrote Tappan Adney when he arrived at the year-old gold town in October 1897. "Men and women were coming and going, both with and without packs...all trotting or walking with an energetic stride, probably begotten no less of the sharp temperatures than of the knowledge that the darkness of Arctic winter was fast settling down."

Reprinting Tappan Adney's The Klondike Stampede was a good idea as it is the most readable and informative, contemporary account of the gold rush excitement. Adney, born in Ohio in 1868, was among an army of journalists

who reported on the Klondike in 1897-1898. He describes the frantic exodus from Pacific ports for the North, the birth of Skagway, Alaska, the trials of the Chilkoot Trail, and the float down the Yukon River to Dawson, queen of the gold district. He gives extensive descriptions of wintering in the North and mining. Adney was an early photo-journalist and the book is profusely illustrated.

Kenneth Coates, a Canadian historian introducing the reprint, notes that the Klondike's remoteness left the gold scene shrouded in mystery. The outside public thirsted for news from the gold camp and were often treated with exaggeration and misinformation, "key elements of the Klondike experience." However, Adney's pieces in Harpers, which later became part of the book, were far more accurate than most, probably because he was on the scene.

Coates, who should know better, exaggerates and misinforms modern readers himself in following the traditional Canadian line in his introduction. He refers to the "peace, order, and good government" created by the presence of the Mounties... "a stark and intriguing contrast to the libertarian, lawless mining frontier of the American west." To Adney's credit, he gives an opposite view, noting corruption in Dawson's government and does not mention "Soapy" Smith, the legendary bad man of Skagway, Alaska. Historians more familiar with the American mining West understand that much of the "lawlessness" of the frontier towns has been written by romantics and fictioners.

Coates does a disservice to Adney's text. In the century since those scandalous days Canadian historians have continued the government's whitewash, ignoring official skullduggery, while crying out at the lively antics of Soapy Smith in Skagway, where for a time conditions were turbulent, as they were at Dawson, and the Fortymile and other far North camps. The reprint lacks an index or annotations.

Gold at Fortymile Creek is a new book rather than a reprint. Prospectors crossed the Chilkoot Pass into the Yukon Basin years before the great Klondike discovery in 1896. In Alaska's Fortymile River country a significant strike was made in 1886 and the miners' camp of Fortymile, located on the Canadian side of the border, became the first Yukon gold rush town.

Gates does a dull job with some rich material. As is usual with Canadian historians, he likes to put the American miners who were largely responsible for opening the Yukon country and the American government in a bad light, even when it does not make much sense. Rather than commending the American traders who, with the assistance of a Canadian missionary, successfully urged Canada to send Mounties and, later, troops, to police the Yukon, he emphasizes that "the company made money supplying them with provisions."

Gates might have noted how much law and order owed to Americans in another respect. Canada committed police and troops in a timely way because it feared American miners might seize the territory as other Americans had taken Mexican land a half century before. Gates does not do justice to Fortymile history. As a writer he is cautious and determined to avoid exaggeration, but he is not penetrating in his research or presentation. Gold at Fortymile Creek is disappointing.

I hope that, as the centennial of the Klondike gold rush nears, we will see more thorough, better written books about the mining experience in the Far North. We have had enough superficial, journalistic-style research. Let us ask new questions, about the diverse peoples, the Native's role, women, the environment, the complexity of the camps, the comparative contexts, as well as unique episodes, such as in mining, transportation, and, of course, law and order. It is time for a reevaluation.

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Shawn Hall, Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1994).

In Romancing Nevada's Past, Shawn Hall examines the major historical sites in the three contiguous counties of Lander, Eureka, and White Pine, Nevada. He divides the book into three sections, one for each county, and begins each section with a one page history of the county. The sites are examined in alphabetical order. The author gives a few lines to the smaller, less important sites and devotes several pages to the larger, more important ones like Mineral Hill, Eureka, and Austin. He ends each discussion with a description of the present condition of the site and what the visitor can expect to see.

Since mining so dominated the development of Nevada, most of the sites relate in some way to that activity. However, the book also mentions places associated with the Overland migrations, the pony express, staging, railroading, and ranching. The book is well illustrated with photos from a wide variety of sources. The photos are well chosen, though a few suffer from poor reproduction. Some companion past-present views as employed by Robert Brown in several of his books on Colorado ghost towns have enhanced this volume.

The author utilized county records, personal interviews, period newspapers and mining journals, federal and state mining reports, various secondary sources, and on-site investigation to flesh out the story of 175 historic sites. The bibliography, however, lacks references to archeological works, such as Don Hardesty's The Archeology of Mining and Miners: A View from the Silver State. Absent too are all but one of Rossiter Raymond's volumes and the reports of the Director of the Mint.

The book could use more and better maps. The three county maps included are too small to identify site locations.

And the brief directions preceding each description is too limited to guide the ghost town hunter. However, those readers desiring an interesting, concise introduction to the history of the region, especially its mining history, will be delighted. It's a book that belongs in the glove compartment of anyone, Nevadan or non-Nevadan, traveling through this part of the Silver State. Hall's love of exploration and fascination with history comes across in his writing and makes this an enjoyable book to read.

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David Williams, The Georgia Gold Rush: Twenty-Niners, Cherokees, and Gold Fever (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1993). xiii, 178 pp., notes, maps, and illus.

A dearth of published materials concerning the 1829 Georgia gold rush led David Williams to write this informative volume concerning the event. He ties the gold fever in North Georgia to the Cherokee removal from the area, reiterating the oft told account of European American greed during the nineteenth century, which apparently knew no bounds. Ironically, gold began to play out in the area just at the time the Cherokee were summarily evicted from their ancestral lands.

While the author devotes much space to the Cherokee ouster, the book's main thrust is the gold rush. Williams deftly summarizes early gold exploration and discoveries before he moves on to those finds which, after August, 1829, touched off the stampede into what became Lumpkin County. These mining fields became the training ground for participants in the California, Colorado, and other gold rushes. This certainly is borne out by Williams's description of early equipment and methods, which were forerunners of more sophisticated tools and procedures western miners used ten and twenty years later.

Williams discusses law and order in the Georgia mining camps pointing out that they were not completely lawless, that a form of "vigilante justice" did exist. He also writes of problems western miners did not face, such as Georgia's practice of awarding lands to people by lottery, which complicated claim acquisition and led to fraud. He delves into social history giving fine accounts of living accommodations, saloons, stores, and other institutions that appeared in the region. The author remembers the ladies, highlighting "Grandma" Agnes Paschal of Auraria, whose hotel did not serve liquor, but was one of the most frequented establishments in the region. Interestingly, the number of women in the mining district nearly equaled the number of men and, according to one account, the females "were equally as

vile and wicked." Nevertheless, because whiskey cost less than prostitutes, drinking saloons, not brothels, were the popular gathering spots for the miners.

He also devotes space to the slaves, many of whom were leased from planters during off season and who not only endured harsh treatment, but faced great danger when forced to work in the mines. Often they received minimal care, at best, from lessees who were uninterested in keeping them healthy and fit.

This excellent book, which could be called a prologue to mining history in the American West, is nicely researched, well written, informative, and blessedly short. It is a volume suited to the shelves of both buffs and scholars who will find it is worth sitting down to read.

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An Explanation

Anxious readers of the Mining History News have asked about the September newsletter. Because of the workload of the International conference, organizational changes, and other causes for delay, it was decided to combine the September and December issue. This double issue includes the ballot and the review of literature that would have appeared earlier. Please complete and return your ballot as soon as possible. Also, if you have additions to our annual review of publications, please let us know. The Mining History News is entering its sixth year. We still encourage submission of articles or information about events, books, research opportunities, historic preservation, practically anything that relates to the history of mining.

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