

# MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 6 • November 1995 • Number 4

## Roaring Days

Rossland, British Columbia, 1890s gold camp of Canada's Kootenay country, will host the Mining History Association's Seventh Annual Conference to be held June 6-9, 1996. Rossland grew after the discovery of lodes on Red Mountain, especially the Le Roi, and attracted railroads and the construction of smelters, such as in nearby Trail, still operated by COMINCO. Fin de Siecle Rossland had a social milieu and labor history comparative to most Western North American mining camps of the time, including contemporary Cripple Creek, Colorado and Goldfield, Nevada. Appropriately, our meetings will take place in the restored Western Federation of Miners hall and events will include a tour of the Le Roi mine, operated by the Rossland Historical Museum. So mark your calendar and plan to attend. More detailed information will be in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference write James E. Fell, Jr., Department of History, University of Colorado at Denver, Campus Box 182, P. O. Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217-3364. Phone 303-556-2896 or Fax: 303-556-6037. The program committee is especially seeking papers on Canadian mining, comparative studies between the U. S. and Canada, the role of Canadians in the mining world, and on innovation and technology. The conference will also have time for presentations on works in

progress, preservation and museum activities, and poster sessions.

Anyone interested in reading about the area before next summer should see Jeremy Mouat's recently published *Roaring Days, Rossland's Mines and the History of British Columbia* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1995). The book details the rise, roaring, and decline of the Rossland mines, the development of the economic and social world of British Columbia, and the influence of the Yanks to the south.

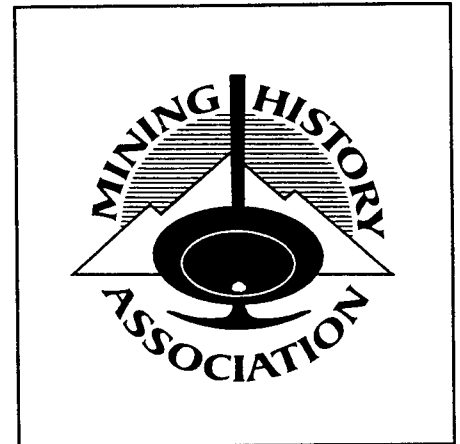
## North Bloomfield

During the Nevada City conference participants toured the Malakoff Diggins State Park, a site preserved and interpreted for its placer, especially hydraulic mining. Member Ron Limbaugh mentioned that a number of folks had wanted further information and he has forwarded a copy of the *North San Juan Times* dated July 15, 1876, which describes the "Origin, Rise, and Progress of North Bloomfield."

The story begins with a physical description of the camp of North Bloomfield -- "a good place for dogs" the writer states -- and the geography of Humbug Creek, tributary of the South Yuba. Mining in the gravels begin in 1852, and a boom ensued between 1855 and 1863. With the decline, Julious Poquillion bought the mining ground and consolidated ownership under the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company, incorporated in 1868.

The company hired 800 Chinese and 300 whites to build dams, 27 miles of ditches and prepared to hydraulic the ground. By 1873, the elaborate system delivered 4,000 miners inches of water to 7 hydraulic nozzles with a pressure of up to 400 feet. Production was not given, but the reporter noted that the stockholders were "satisfied."

The town of North Bloomfield contained the usual array of mining camp businesses and buildings that housed the 300 "frugal and industrious" residents. The reporter completed his praise with kind words about the school, gardens, and the town's apparent prosperous future. For our Mining History Association excursionists last June, the sunny skies and pleasant grounds, restored buildings, and animated interpreters provided a glimpse of the "diggins" at their height, as they were in the North Bloomfield of 1876.



### President's Page

A trip to Cornwall is a must for all mining historians, rather like going back to our "roots." For this reason the Mining History Association is considering sponsoring a 1997 trip to Cornwall's largest "city," Truro, and from there day trips to mines and mining sites.

Having just returned from a rapid trip through the West Country of England and Cornwall during the worst drought and heat wave (80s and 90s) in the last twenty years, and in the middle of the all-England August vacation month, I can still say the trip was worth it. Cornwall has much to offer historians and those interested in history.

Besides numerous stone engine houses to see, the Cornish were excellent masons at home and abroad, and other mining sites, one stop every visitor should make is to Morwellham Quay. This preserved and restored copper mine district, copper mine port and village on the river Tamar is worth the effort to reach. Surrounded by rolling hills, the village sits at the head of navigation for the river and was founded by Benedictine monks in 974 AD. Tin was mined here as early as the twelfth century and continued to be mined up into the nineteenth. Rich deposits of silver and lead ore were opened in 1290, but the district became most famous for copper.

It takes a bit of effort and a little determination if one does not have a car. The bus from Plymouth to Tavistock is easy enough as is the next bus out into the country. You are then left at a country cross-roads and face a mile and a half hike to the village. The walk out is all up hill, probably a climb of 600 to 700 feet. Exercise and history at the same time can not be beat!

Once England's largest copper mine, it is now a living history site depicting the 1860s with restored and operating machinery, a working assay office, a mine to tour and other things to see and do. Both young and old will enjoy the visit as there are games a plenty and

other activities for kids and the young at heart.

All members of the Association should mark 1997 for several exciting trips. One to Michigan for our annual conference and to see the copper country, the other a trip to Cornwall and its fascinating mining history. If interested in the latter write me at Southwest Center, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado 81301-3999.

Duane Smith  
Durango

### Organization Notes

During the Western History Association meeting in Denver, October 11-14, 1995, a group of fifty mining historians met for a breakfast of sharing their research interests and discussing Mining History Association organization matters. Past president Stan Dempsey presented outgoing president Duane Smith the symbol of office, a geologist pick, mounted on a polished wood panel with the names of all of the organization's presidents' names etched in brass.

Chris Huggard and Charles Hughes presented copies of the 1995 journal. Check your mail for *The Mining History Journal*. The 1995 edition is at the printers ready for shipment and will be mailed this week.

Lysa Wegman-French gave a report on the nominations for officers. The ballot is enclosed in this issue. Please select your candidates and return to the secretary by Dec 15. Thanks to Lysa, Liston Leyendecker, and Ed Hunter for their work on the nomination committee.

Membership committee chair Glen Cook gave a report on the membership and the effort to prepare a directory of members. Next year, the membership renewal form will include the basic information, name and address, plus phone, Fax, and e:mail, at the discretion of the member, and field of interest. The computer generated directory will be available next summer.

Glen also discussed Bradford Burton's offer to prepare a Home Page for the Mining History Association. Brad is located at the International Archives of Economic Geology, University of Wyoming and already coordinates an e:mail list serve on mining history. Glen and Brad will work on the Home Page, which will include a description of the Mining History Association, list upcoming events, contain a membership application, and recent publications by or of interest to members.

Other discussions among those present included the investigation of membership categories, especially life and patron memberships. Eric Clemons gave a report on the new membership brochure. And Chris Huggard will research the opportunity to have a booth at next year's WHA.

After the meeting, officers and members of the board -- Duane Smith, Ron Brown, Bob Spude, Jay Fell, Gene Gressley, Ron Limbaugh, Stan Dempsey, and Jeremy Mouat -- voted to approve the selection of Houghton, Michigan as the site of the 1997 meeting. Absent members Karen Vendl and Sally Zanjani and president-elect Noel Kirshenbaum had sent their proxy in support of Houghton.

Thanks to Erik Nordberg of Michigan Tech for his efforts on attracting the 1997 conference to Houghton.

**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

SEVENTH MEETING  
OF THE  
MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

at historic Rossland, British Columbia, Canada  
June 6-9, 1996

The Program Committee for the Rossland 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.

Given that the Association will meet in Canada, the program committee is particularly interested in papers on the following topics:

- 1) Mining in Canada
- 2) Comparative Studies, American and Canadian
- 3) The role of Canadians in Mining in the U.S. and other Countries
- 4) Innovation and Technological Change

Proposals should include title, an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each paper, plus biographical information about each presenter and session participant, including name, affiliation, addresses and FAX and e:mail address, if available. Please send proposals to the Program Committee chair before March 1, 1996.

1996 Program Committee:

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Dr. Jeremy Mouat  
University of Athabasca  
Athabasca, Alberta

Lysa Wegman-French  
National Park Service  
Denver, Colorado

## 1995 Election of Officers

### VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Robert A. Trennert is a professor and past chair of the history department at Arizona State University. He completed his graduate work in frontier history at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Since his teens, he has been interested in mining history and railroads, combining those activities with photography. Active in the preservation movement in Arizona, he travels across the state presenting public lectures on historic preservation, mining camps, ghost towns, and mine technology. He is currently on the board of the Arizona Historical Foundation and is a member of the State Historic Sites Review Committee (which is responsible for recommending National Register of Historic Places nominations). Trennert is the author of three books on American Indian policy and 30 articles in scholarly journals. A charter member of the Mining History Association, he is presently doing research on mining in Arizona, aerial trams, and the employment of Indians as miners.

### BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Malcolm J. Rohrbough received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and since then has enjoyed a lengthy tenure as professor of history at the University of Iowa. In addition to his book Aspen: The History of a Silver Mining Town, 1879-1893 (Oxford University Press, 1986), Rohrbough has given numerous professional presentations, including "The Impact of Migration on Women's Roles and Status: Non-Migrant Women and the California Gold Rush" as well as "Men, Women, Gold: Communities East and West in the California Gold Rush." Rohrbough is currently researching three different aspects of the California gold rush for books, including the role of the French and the connection with Nantucket Island.

James D. Edgerly describes himself as a "lifetime and incurable miner." Beginning with a B.A.Sc. in Mining Engineering, and later adding an M.B.A. in finance, Edgerly worked for over forty years in the mining industry. While he emphasized coal in Colorado, Wyoming, and Australia, Edgerly was also involved in gold, asbestos, and mining equipment sales in Ontario and Quebec. Prior to his recent retirement, he was president and general manager of Trapper Mining, Inc., a successful coal mining corporation in Western Colorado. Edgerly has an active interest in the history of mining.

Richard Francaviglia did his undergraduate work at the University of California at Riverside and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. His life-long interests 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, 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).

Lynn E. Langenfeld is an assistant vice president and trust officer at Firstar Bank in Madison, Wisconsin. She received her B.A. in finance and banking at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. With her husband, Mark, she is researching and documenting the history of the lead-zinc district of southwestern Wisconsin. Langenfeld has also been instrumental in working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in developing and instituting criteria to be used in determining whether abandoned mines should be protected for their historical significance and/or used as bat hibernacula. This topic was the subject of the Langenfelds' presentation at the 1993 MHA conference in Lead, S.D. Langenfeld attended the 1993, '94 and '95 MHA conferences and served on the 1994 Nominating Committee.

Homer Milford is embarked on a second career researching mining history for the New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Bureau as well as doing biological studies for the state. He is a professor emeritus from the University of Albuquerque where he taught for twenty years. New Mexico history has been his life long avocation, and he has worked on a number of historical conservation projects. His area of interest is early mining in New Mexico, with a long term goal of improving the documentation of the 17th and 18th century Spanish mining in the southwest. In addition to Milford's articles on New Mexico mining, he gave a paper on Edison's mill at the Association's meeting in Golden. Milford has attending the last four annual meetings.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Eric L. Clements is the Education Director of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has presented several papers at MHA conferences and elsewhere on topics such as health and safety reform in the Progressive Era, the nature of radicalism in the Western Federation of Miners, and the bust side of the boom and bust cycle. He has been an active member of the association since its first year, and is interested in becoming more involved in its activities and operations.

Ronald M. James, the State Historic Preservation Officer for Nevada, has an M.A. in History and Folklore, and has been a member of the Comstock Historic District Commission for twelve years. James has written extensively on mining as well as on Nevada courthouses, architectural history, and preservation. His mining-related topics focus on the west, specifically in Nevada and the Comstock and include articles on the Cornish-American miners, historical archaeology, women, immigrant folklore, and ethnic conflict.

Mark L. Langenfeld is an attorney with the Madison office of Foley & Lardner. Among other projects, he is currently assisting the Crandon Mining Company in obtaining state and federal permits to mine copper, zinc, silver and gold from a large sulfide ore body in northern Wisconsin. The mine will be the state's first underground operation in decades. Langenfeld and his wife Lynn are actively researching (for ultimate publication) the well-documented but poorly chronicled history of the Upper-Mississippi Valley lead-zinc District. Some of their work was the subject of a paper presented at the 1993 MHA conference in Lead, SD. Langenfeld also attended the 1995 conference in Nevada City, CA and the 1994 international conference in Golden, CO.

Stanley W. Paher, a native Nevadan, wrote his first book, Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps, in 1970; it received the National Award of Merit in History that year. He soon established a regional publishing company, Nevada Publications, which has issued almost 100 titles on the four southwestern states. His most recent published work is Lake Tahoe: The Story Behind the Scenery, issued by K.C. Publications. K.C. Publications has recently named him General Series Editor for a new series of ten books about the mining west.

James Whiteside received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His specialty in mining history is the problem of industrial safety and regulation. He is the author of Regulating Danger: The Struggle for Mine Safety in the Rocky Mountain Coal Industry (University of Nebraska Press, 1990); "Beyond Ludlow: Problems and Opportunities in Western Coal Mining History," Mining History Association Annual (1994); "Coal Mining, Safety, and Regulation in New Mexico: 1882-1933," New Mexico Historical Review (1989); and "Protecting the Life and Limb of Our Workmen: Coal Mining Regulation in Colorado, 1883-1920," Essays and Monographs in Colorado History (1986), for which he received the Colorado Historical Society's Leroy Hafen Award. He is now working on a history of sports in Colorado which will include a chapter on mining camp sports. Whiteside served as a session chair at the Association's 1994 annual meeting. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Colorado at Denver and a Faculty Affiliate at Colorado State University.

## Preservation/Museums

The Historical Society of Idaho Springs, Colorado is organizing a "Heritage Gala" November 18 for the grand opening of the town's new Heritage Center. Designed to look like one of the former wooden mill buildings in the old gold camp -- a slanted roofed, box of a building painted mineral oxide red, with industrial windows, trim painted white -- the Heritage Center will house a museum, model of the Colorado Central railroad and the mining region it served, and a visitor center. The society will continue to operate the Underhill Museum on Main Street; once the business and home of mining engineer James Underhill and his wife Lucy, it will be restored to its early twerth century appearance while museum displays will be removed to the new Heritage Center. For more information call 303-567-4709 or 4877 or write the society at P. O. Box 1318, Idaho Springs, CO 80452. If you can't attend you can still buy a chance at a gold claim (a guaranteed bonanza) for \$1.

The Friends of Kennicott, Alaska, sent their latest minutes with reports on the continued efforts to preserve the historic copper camp in the vast wilderness of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Secretary Bruce Babbitt of the U. S. Department of Interior recently gave the Friends a Partnership Leadership Award for their wide spectrum of efforts, from being a go between in discussions with private and governmental entities, to just providing good information about thier worthy goals. More information and membership (\$20) are available from the Friends of Kennicott, Box 241362, Anchorage, Alaska 99524.

The November/December 1994 issue of *Michigan History* is dedicated to the theme of "150 Years of Michigan Iron." Essays include John S. Burt, "Boys, look around and see what you can find," on the 1844 discovery; Terry S.

Reynolds, "We Were Satisfied with It" on company paternalism; Arnold R. Alanen, "A 'Town Without Equal'" on the model community of Gwinn; Paula Stofer's "Shared Beads, Shared Bread" on boarding house life; and Maria Quinian Leiby, "A Woman's Touch" on women in the towns.

## Conferences

The Fourth International. Adolfo Ibanez S. M. has written with the latest details about the Fourth International Mining History Conference to be held October 18-24, 1998 in Copiago, Chile. The Universidad de Atacama, a descendent of the "Escuelas de Minas" founded in 1857, will be the location of the conference. Copiago is an ancient city in the center of Chile's mid-north mining regions, which has a history of mining that dates to the prehistoric. The organizer are particularly interested in papers on: 1) Mining Company histories, 2) Mining and Mineral Rights History, and 3) History of the relation of Private and Government institutions within the mining industry. For more information contact: Adolfo Ibanez and Patricia Anguita G., Centro Estudios Abate Molina, Casilla 78 Correo 55, Santiago, Chile. Phone country code +(56-2)236-0583 or Fax (56-2)236-1463.

The Second International Workshop on the Industrial, Medical, and Military Applications of Radionuclides: A Historical Perspective will be held in Salzburg, Austria, September 9-11, 1996. The conference organizers are particularly interested in papers on mining topics, such as uranium and radium mining and milling. For more information contact James H. Stebbings, Midwest Epidemiology Association, 24 W 571 Mallard Ct., Naperville, IL 60540-3737. phone: 708-305-3688.

## Tours

Atalaya Tours sent their latest notice for mining tours of Europe. They have

tentative plans for a study tour of the Rio Tinto Mines of Spain in mid-April 1996. In the past year they have guided groups through western Britain, the mines of Andalucia, Spain, and in Northern Spain. For more information contact them at Atalaya Tours Ltd, Ceinionfa, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HR, U.K. Tel: +44(0)1970 82 89 89 or Fax: +44(0)1970 61 72 90.

Greg Drew, who some of you may recall gave a presentation on preserved sites in South Australia, has offered to organize a tour for mining history enthusiasts. The tour of Mining Heritage Sites in South Australia would depart from Adelaide, take ten days and include Burra, Kapunda, Moonta, Broken Hill, and other sites. The estimated cost is \$1500 (Australian) from Adelaide. The group would be limited to 20 people, but needs a minimum of ten. Time to be arranged. For more information contact him at South Australia Mines and Energy, 191 Greenhill Road Parkside, P. O. Box 151 Eastwood 5063, S. A., Australia. Phone: 61-8-274-7667 or Fax: 61-8-272-3503.

## Australian MHA

The Australian Mining History Association issued newsletter number two with too much information to detail here; news of meetings, preservation, books, and research interest. For a copy of the newsletter write Mel Davies, Dept. of Economics, University of Western Australia, Nedlands 6009, W. A., Australia or e-mail: mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au

The Department of Mines and Energy of South Australia has recently published *Above and Below*, a history of the past 50 years of that institution. Written by historian Bernard O'Neil, the 500 page book is the second volume of a centennial history (*In Search of Mineral Wealth* was published in 1982). Available for \$29.95 Australian (\$20 shipping) Box 151 Eastwood SA 5063.

## Book Reviews

Carlos Arnaldo Schwantes, *Hard Traveling, A Portrait of Work Life in the New Northwest*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994. 234 pp., notes, 188 photographs. \$45.00.

University of Idaho professor of history Carlos Schwantes is well known for his publications on labor in the Far West, especially as it relates to the region's mining camps. In *Hard Traveling*, professor Schwantes replaces the pen and scholarly monograph with evocative photographs to help us understand the world of work during our grandparents and great grandparents's generations.

Schwantes begins with a contextual essay to explain the evolution of labor from the beginning of the industrial revolution brought by the railroad and, most visibly, in the mining mills and smelters (look at the pictures of Butte or Wallace) and lumber camps. The introductory essay interweaves comments about the photographs to help the reader more deeply understand what they see, a revolution of how we have changed from farm families or independent shop keepers to become parts of the massive industrial complexes of the World War II years and after. The Northwest serves as a reflection of the entire West, 1880-1940.

The majority of the book is divided into 8 folios of photographs. Each folio has a theme, for example: "Building a New Northwest," "Pastures of Plenty," "Organize," and "War and Peace." The folios include quotes from the period that enhance the photographs...town builders describing nascent Tacoma, Rudyard Kipling puzzling over a Columbia River fish wheel, and, on p. 159, a photograph of a young couple pointing to a virgin field in the post-war Columbia Basin, which is followed by a photograph of a sign: "HAVE FAITH IN GOD AND U. S. RECLAMATION."

The selection of photographs are the real treat in this book. Their clarity as

well as the topic -- there are people in them, a minor peeve of other photo books. The University of Nebraska Press has reproduced the photographs clearly on glossy pages.

Robert Spude  
Denver

Daniel C. Fitzgerald. *Ghost Towns of Kansas, A Traveler's Guide*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1988. 348 pp., notes, photographs, map. \$12.95.  
Daniel C. Fitzgerald. *Faded Dreams, More Ghost Towns of Kansas*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1994. 318 pp., notes, photographs, map. \$12.95.

To mining historians, ghost towns are those abandoned mining camps on the four-wheel only roads high-up on a mountainside or at the end of some scratch of track across the desert. But checking my Websters dictionary, a ghost town is "an abandoned town or village that is at least in part still standing," no association with mining needed. Daniel Fitzgerald's use of the term for his books on "abandoned towns and villages" in the Kansas cornfields has been approved by Mr. Webster.

An archivist for the Kansas State Historical Society, Fitzgerald has compiled informative thumb nail sketches of hundreds of abandoned rail towns, farm communities, and a surprising number of mining camps in these two well illustrated volumes. Although they are not perched on a mountainside, the places described offer a portrait of boom and bust Kansas over the past century and a half. Towns faded most often because of a moving of population into nearby centers, or were located at a too soon abandoned rail line or mine, or were bypassed river towns, or were speculative towns that failed to meet their promise, or were erased by a government reservoir project.

In his introduction, Fitzgerald confesses to having discovered ghost towns in Colorado (which was actually

part of Kansas once), but gained a greater curiosity when he looked in his own backyard. The American westward experience is literally dotted with thousands of ghost towns. Previously, authors have focused on the mining west states. Now, thanks to Dan Fitzgerald and other authors we are discovering that the experience of the Great Plains was not dissimilar to the mining west.

Mining historians will enjoy the descriptions of coal towns and lead-zinc camps as well as the few oil patches. There are some familiar mining names and promoters, making the books useful for research. Both volumes are available in paperback for easy traveling. The maps and directions should get you to any place but Oz.

Carl Gibson  
Dubuque, Iowa

A. C. Greene. *900 Miles on the Butterfield Trail*. Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 1994. 304 pp., notes, bibliography, map. \$24.95.

"Remember, boys, nothing on God's earth must stop the United States mail!" is the memorable declaration of John Butterfield as the first Overland Mail stage left St. Louis bound for California. The opening of the Butterfield Trail was an epic event for the Southwest for it cut across the desert country and tied California to the rest of the Nation. For the New Mexico Territory (which included Arizona at the time) and Texas, the trail was a lifeline of news and correspondence with the East. Unfortunately, the economic collapse of John Butterfield and the feuding sections of the country caused the removal of the stage runs in 1860, barely three years after they had begun. But the legend lingered.

In *900 Miles on the Butterfield Trail* Texas newspaper personality, A. C. Greene gives the reader a brief introduction to the story of the Overland Mail before taking the reader on a nine

hundred mile journey down the Butterfield Trail, across West Texas, southern New Mexico, and into Arizona. Greene provides sketches of each significant stop or town, a description of the legendary landscape, and provides his own reflections, at times a haunting commentary of ghostly traces of the trail.

Mining historians will enjoy the book as an introduction to the mining regions so isolated from transportation that few ventured into the desert to prospect and extract its riches until the arrival of the railroad two decades later. The book also is a good combination of historical detail combined with modern descriptive narrative. Greene provides a good, informative read. The artist Teresa Avini's illustrations and the endpaper maps add to the publication.

William Turpin  
Prescott, Arizona

#### **Book Notes**

Published reminiscences offer glimpses into events as they unfold, or at least as one person thought they unfolded, and are valuable for their author's assessment of people, places, and times. Arthur Hill was an actor on several stages and in his last years provided writer John Moring with his tales of the passing of the frontier West. In *Arthur Hill, Western Actor, Miner, and Law Officer*, John Morley has taken Hill's recorded recollections and researched the events in which they occurred and has written the story of an adventurer in the Southwest and Alaska. Hill was a California thespian before news of gold in the north drew him with thousands of other stamperders to Nome; unfortunately, Hill's recollections are limited to meeting Wyatt Earp, proprietor of Nome's Second Class Saloon. Morley fills in the details. More interesting to mining

historians are his days spent in the camps of central Arizona, near Prescott, ca. 1900 to 1907. He was miner for Henry B. Clifford, one of the more fraudulent of promoters in that desert country. After the bust, Hill returned to California and joined the police force of San Diego, a new stage that provides the book's closing scenes. The slim book (115 pp.) is a worthy contribution to the field, especially the new material on the Arizona camps. Copies are available from Sunflower University Press, Box 1009, Manhattan, Kansas 66502 for \$16.95.

#### **Video**

Jack Carey, Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, 730 Seventeenth Street, Suite 350, Denver, CO 80202 or phone 303-573-8621 offers "The Story of Colorado's Florence Oil Field," a history of one of the West's first oil fields.

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**Mining History Association**  
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