

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 7 • February 1996 • Number 1

President's Welcome

The forthcoming Mining History Association meeting in Rossland, British Columbia, will be our first outside the U. S. The former gold mining camp now resort in the Canadian Rockies will provide the perfect setting for our four days of tours, paper sessions, and social events. We will begin with an open house at the Rossland Museum and a tour of the Le Roi mine, depicted here, from a 1903 article in the *Engineering & Mining Journal*. All the details of the conference are outlined in the following pages.

Aside from the meeting five years ago in Leadville, it will be the only other conference to date in a mining locale known for more than precious metals. Near Rossland is Trail, a metallurgical center world-renowned for production of lead, zinc, and a suite of important byproducts and who's smelter is celebrating its centennial. Trail has long had one of only three electrolytic lead refineries in the world.

Over the past century, mineral development in the South Kootenays stimulated many associated industrial activities: transportation, hydroelectric generation, and manufacture of co-products related to the minerals found in the area. Examples include production of heavy water, a significant contribution to Canada's nuclear program during World War II, and manufacture of fertilizer using sulphuric acid made at the Trail smelter. There is some interesting history here in pollution control: the smelter emitted sulphur

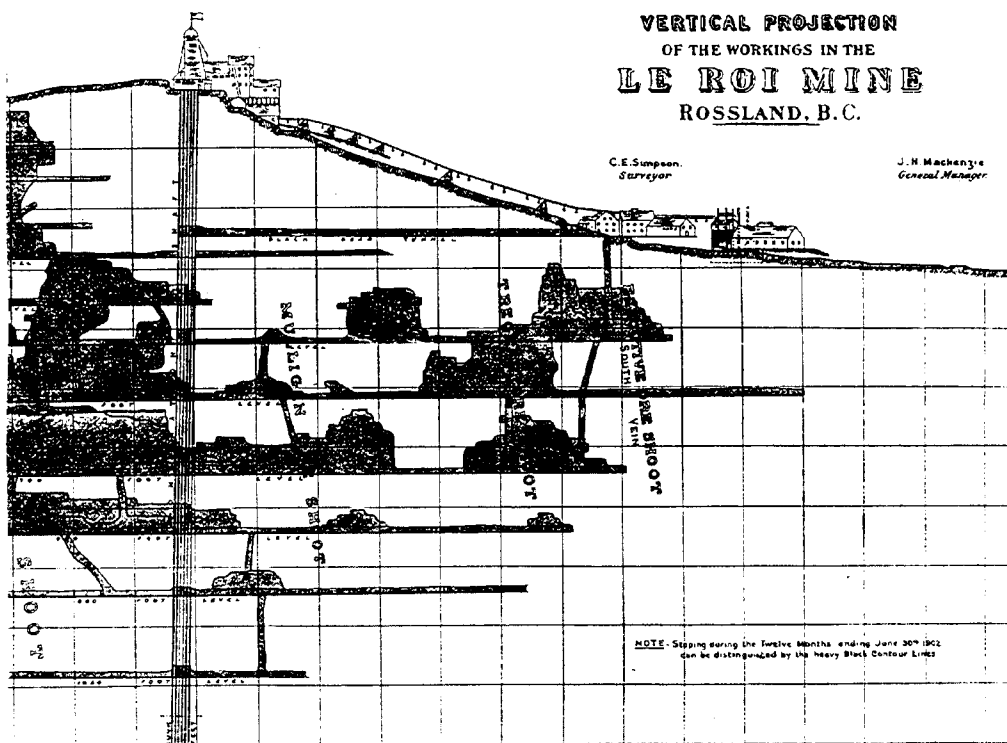
dioxide, causing an international dispute. The outcome led to conversion of the gas to sulphuric acid which was used in the large scale production of fertilizer.

The region's historical significance, however, goes far beyond just mining and smelting of base metals. As this region, the South Kootenays, was a rugged, remote part of Canada, large scale mineral activities fostered the development of a complex transportation system. This all started shortly after the completion of Canada's first transcontinental railway. In some respects, history in Canada is more "recent" than in the U. S.; the city of Vancouver, now one of North America's major metropolises, did not even exist

until the Canadian Pacific Railway chose that site for its West Coast terminus. Vancouver's population in 1886 was but 600.

In addition to mining, metallurgical, transportation, and industrial development, the area has a very interesting business and economic history associated with some of the largest resource and transportation enterprises in both the U. S. and Canada. It should be evident that the Rossland meeting will provide all who attend with an unusual breadth of historical activities intimately associated with mining and metallurgy.

Noel Kirshenbaum
San Francisco



Conference Hotel

The Uplander Hotel in downtown Rossland is the center for the Mining History Association conference. Rooms have been reserved at the conference rate of \$60 Canadian or \$45 U.S. You can make reservations through the Kootenay South Events & Convention Center 1 800 563-8368 or call the hotel directly at 604-362-7375. Most events will be in the hotel conference rooms or at the Miner's Union Hall, two blocks away.

Information

Rossland is at an elevation of 3,409 feet and has a population of 3,696, about one person per foot elevation. The Rossland visitor information center is at Box 26, Rossland, B.C. V0G 1Y0 or call 604-362-7722. They will provide information about additional lodging, nearby parks and Kootenay Country attractions. Trail, 7 miles downstream on the banks of the Columbia River, provides visitor information at 843 Rossland Ave., Trail, B.C. V1R 4S8 or call 604-368-3144.

Thanks

The organization and local arrangements for this year's conference is the result of hard work by Jeremy Mouat of the University of Athabasca; he arranged for tours, meeting places, rooms, and the host of small details that bring such an event together. Jeremy is author of a recent book on Rossland (mentioned elsewhere), MHA board member, and active participant at past conferences.

Also, thanks are due the program committee members. Besides Jeremy Mouat the committee included James E. Fell, Jr. of the University of Colorado, Denver and Lysa Wegman-French of the National Park Service.

Thanks to the Rossland Historical Museum for graciously providing an open house and free mine tour on the opening day of the conference, June 6, 1996.

A generous donation of funds to support conference activities was provided by COMINCO, operator of the Trail smelter. The association thanks them as well for the opportunity to tour the smelter.

Thanks also to Placer Dome of Canada for their support of conference activities and the Mining History Association's publications program.

Format

The Rossland conference will follow the general format of earlier MHA conferences. Several tours will be arranged for those people that might be interested in seeing a bit more of the area. Rossland itself has a very good mining museum, including an underground tour (down an old level that led into the Le Roi mine). Cominco will also arrange a tour for us of the huge Trail smelter. In addition, we are able to offer an extended bus tour into the Slocan on Sunday 9 June.

Driving in Canada

Member Bill Greever of Moscow, Idaho writes to remind drivers that they should secure through their insurance agent a Canadian Non-Resident Interprovince Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Identification Card. If you don't have it and if there is an accident, regardless of who is at fault, the police will impound your car until such a card arrives by mail from your insurance company.

When in Spokane

Robert Weldin of Miner's Quest, Spokane, whom many of you know from his antique displays at past conferences, invites any of the wandering MHA multitudes that might find themselves lost in Spokane on their way to Rossland to give him a call; all direction and relief that can be given will be given. Call Bob at 509-327-2897.

Suggested readings

To understand the boom at Rossland, the speculative mania, the underground world of the miner, and the subsequent collapse of the gold rush read Jeremy Mouat's *Roaring Days, Rossland's Mines and the History of British Columbia* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1995). The reprinting of Elsie Turnbull's booklet, *Trail, A Smelter City* (Langley, B. C.: Sunfire Publications, reprint 1995), provides a good overview of the town where COMINCO began. A superbly illustrated book on the mines and railways to the north of Rossland, where the Sunday tour will wander, is Robert D. Turner and David S. Wilkie, *The Skyline Limited, the Kaslo and Slocan Railway, An Illustrated History of Narrow Gauge Railroading and Sternwheelers in the Kootenays* (Victoria: Sono Nis Press, 1994).

Organization Notes

During the conference the nominating committee -- Stan Paher, Ron James, and Eric Clement -- will seek nominations for candidates for the fall election. Nominees should be members in good standing and willing to share their experiences and energies as a board member, officer, or committee member.

Nominations may be given to any of the present board and officers as well. The 1996 officers are: Noel Kirshenbaum, president, Robert Trennert, vice-president, Ronald Brown, Treasurer, and Robert Spude, Secretary. The following are on the board:

- Duane Smith, past-president
- Jeremy Mouat, 1994-6,
- Sally Zanjani, 1994-6,
- Ron Limbaugh, 1995-7,
- Gene Gressley, 1995-7,
- Karen Vendl, 1995-7,
- Richard Francaviglia, 1996-8
- Lynn Langenfeld, 1996-8
- James Edgerly, 1996-8

Flights

There's a number of different ways to get to Rossland. Castlegar is the closest airport to Rossland. It's about 25 miles away. There is a shuttle bus, run by Dewdney Tours, which meets flights into Castlegar. The company is offering a special rate for travel from airport to the conference hotel in Rossland, \$10 CAN (about \$7.50 US) one way. They do ask that you let them know when you're coming, by giving them a call a few days in advance. They have two toll-free numbers: in Canada, call 1 800 332-0282; from the US, call 1 800 332-0283. Bear in mind that only Canadian flights come into Castlegar, from either Vancouver or Calgary. If you're flying from the US, you'll have to fly into one of those cities first, and then take a commuter flight to Castlegar. (In fact, you have to do that from within Canada too.)

Two airlines fly into Castlegar. Air BC (an Air Canada regional carrier) has a daily flight from Calgary, at 11:15 am (non-stop); from Vancouver there are three flights into Castlegar, 7:05 am, 11:00am, and 2:02 pm. The 11:00 am has a stop along the way; the other two are non-stop. Canadian Airlines International services Castlegar through Canadian Regional. Canadian has two flights into Castlegar from Vancouver, at 7:00 am and 11:15 am, and one flight from Calgary, at 11:45 am.

For American travellers, it may be more convenient and/or economical to fly into Spokane, Washington and then pick up a rental car at the Spokane airport. Rossland is one hundred and forty miles north of Spokane, and the drive up takes about three hours.

Dues

Dues for 1996 are due. If 1996 appears on your address label all is well. If not please forward a check for \$25 to the MHA, P.O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215. The Mining History Association will produce four newsletters, the annual journal and organize the annual conference during 1996. Tap er' Light.

**The Mining History Association
Newsletter**

Denver, Colorado

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$25 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.

Seventh Annual Conference Mining History Association
June 6-9, 1996, Rossland, British Columbia

June 6, Thursday

2:00-5:00 p.m. Open house and free tours, Rossland Museum and LeRoi Mine.

3:00-5:30 Registration, Uplander Hotel

5:30 Welcoming Reception at the Uplander Hotel, hosted by Placer Dome Canada

7:00 Opening Session at the Uplander Hotel: Gold in the Far North

Chair: Noel Kirshenbaum, Placer Dome, U. S., Inc.; Sheila Kelly, "The Treadwell Mines, Juneau, Alaska"; Kenneth Kutz, "The Klondike Gold Rush."

June 7, Friday

Registration all day, Uplander Hotel

8:30 Tour of Trail Smelter, Courtesy COMINCO

Load buses at Uplander Hotel Rossland for ride to Trail and the tour of COMINCO's smelter complex.

11:30 Lunch, Uplander Hotel

Carlos Schwantes, University of Idaho, "Kootenay Country Transportation: The Role of Stages and Steamboats in the Mineral Rushes to the Northern Rockies"

1:30 Session 1, located in Miner's Union Hall: Developments in Copper, Australia, Montana, and New Mexico

Chair: Richard Francaviglia, University of Texas, Arlington; Greg Drew, Department of Mines and Energy, South Australia, "The Burra Experience, Australia"; Fred Quivik, University of Pennsylvania, "Early Surface Mining at Butte, Montana and the Hydro-Metallurgy of Copper"; Christopher Huggard, "History of Technology in the Copper Industry, New Mexico."

3:00 Session 2, Located in Miner's Union Hall: Labor and Capital in Mining Communities of the 20th Century U. S. Pacific Northwest

Chair: Katherine Aiken, University of Idaho; Susan Vetter, Washington State University, "'Caveat Emptor' -- Let the Buyer Beware of Blue Skies and Mining Stock"; Laurie Mercier, Washington State University, Vancouver, "The End of the Mine-Mill Era in Montana"; Connie Broughton, Washington State University, "Literary Representations of Mining Labor in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District."

4:30 Mining History Association Business Meeting, Miner's Union Hall

6:00 Reception at the Uplander Hotel

7:00 Awards Banquet at the Uplander Hotel

Speaker: Jeremy Mouat, University of Athabasca, "'Roaring Days', Rossland's Mines and the History of British Columbia."

June 8, Saturday

Registration 8:00 to 10 a.m.

8:30a.m. Session 3, Uplander Hotel: Ethnicity and Employment. Dan Marshall, University of British Columbia, "Native Participation in the British Columbia Gold Rush"; Michael Ripmeester, Brock University, "'Islands About the Town': Constructing Ethnicity in Rossland, B. C., 1890-1910"; Emmy-Lou Forster, University of Colorado, "Brawls, Booze, and Brouhaha: the Irish Come to the Coeur d'Alene."

10:00 Session 4, Uplander Hotel: Coal Mines and Labor Relations Chair: Keith Ralston, University of British Columbia; Delphin A. Muise, Carleton University, "The Duncan Royal Commission and Nova Scotia's Coal Mines, 1925"; Denise Pan, University of New Mexico, "Welfare Capitalism at the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company"; William M. Baker, University of Lethbridge, "Canadian Miners and the International: The UMWA and the Lethbridge Strike of 1906"; Don Dingsdag, Southern Cross University, "State Regulation of New South Wales and British Columbia Coal Mines."

11:45 Presidential Lunch

Noel Kirshenbaum, President, Mining History Association

1:30 Session 5, Uplander Hotel: Social and Economic Change in the Mining Industry. Guy Gaudreau, Laurentian University, "Changing Ethnicity of Labor at INCO, Sudbury, Ontario, 1900-1914"; Matt Bray, Laurentian University, "The Formation of the International Nickel Company of New Jersey"; Kraig Schwartz, University of Maine, "Technological Change and Labor Process in Asbestos Mining: The Ramifications for Political and Social Conflict at Thetford Mines, Quebec, 1898-1923"; Erik Nordberg, Michigan Technological University, "Research Tools: Mining Company Employee Records."

3:00 Session 6, Uplander Hotel: Different Technologies, Colorado and Canada. Chair: James E. Fell, Jr., University of Colorado, Denver; James D. Mochoruk, University of North Dakota, "Manitoba's First Hardrock Mines: A Study in Innovation, Technological Change, and Government Aid"; Alexander Dow, Caledonian University, "The Development of Canadian Base-Metal Mining"; Stephen S. Hart, Environmental Consultant, Denver, "The Role of Uranium in the Life and Death of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad."

5:30 Optional walking tour of Rossland.

June 9, Sunday

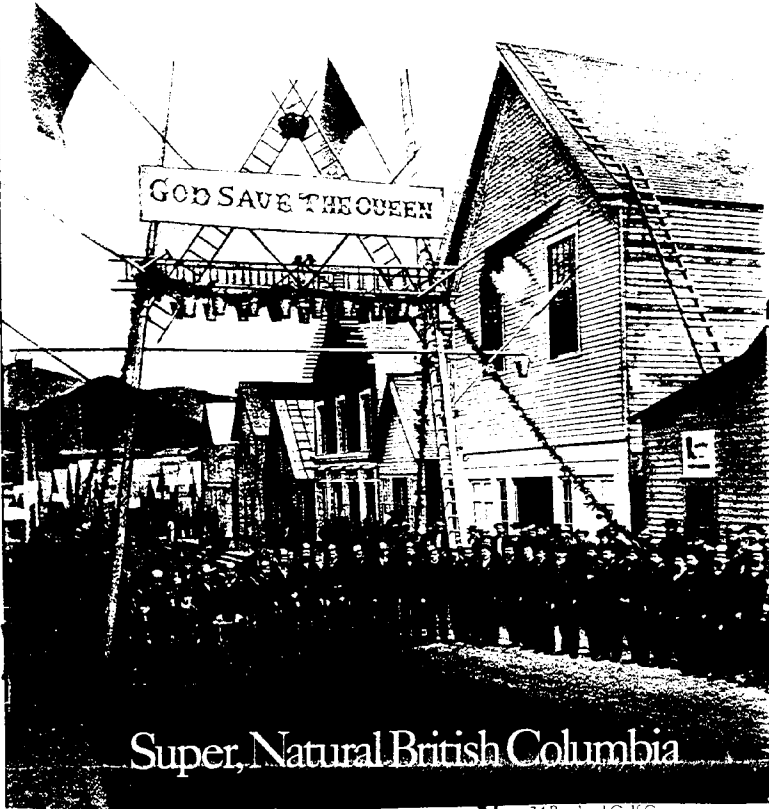
8:30 a.m - 8 p.m. Tour of the "Silver Slocan"

Meet at the Uplander Hotel for all day bus tour to Silverton Outdoor Museum, Sandon ghost town for lunch (provided), Silversmith, Kaslo on Kootenay Lake, sternwheeler S. S. Moyie, Nelson for walking tour and dinner (on your own). Return to Rossland by 8:00 p.m.

The Gold Rush Trail Guide

ROSSLAND

Canada's Alpine



Super, Natural British Columbia

Central Business District

RESTAURANTS ●

- 2 Amelia's Coffee Shop - Uplander Hotel
- 2 Louis Blue Dining Room - Uplander Hotel
- 3 GoldRush Books & Espresso
- 6 Mountain Side Restaurant
- 7 Rockingham's Restaurant
- 9 Sunshine Café
- 15 Museum Tea House
- 24 Olive Oyl's
- 25 Roundhouse Restaurant - Flying Steamshovel
- 34 Duffers Golf Club Restaurant
- 39 Luigi's Pizza - Red Mountain
- 49 Elmer's Corner Café
- 50 Clansey's Cappuccino Bar
- 51 Subway

CITY PARKS

- 16 Centennial Park
- 18 Nickleplate Rotary Park
- 22 Esling Park
- 29 Jubilee Park
- 33 Rossignol Park
- 37 Cook Avenue Park

ACCOMMODATIONS ■

- 2 Uplander Hotel
- 13 Rossland Motel
- 17 Scotsman Hotel
- 35 Heritage Hill B&B
- 36 Angela's Place B&B
- At Red Mountain Resort
- 40 Red Shutter Inn
- 41 Carolyn's Place B&B
- 42 Red Mountain Motel
- 43 Ram's Head Inn

CAMPING ▲

- 12 Paradise Mountain R.V. Park
- 14 Lions Campground
- 38 Nancy Greene Provincial Park

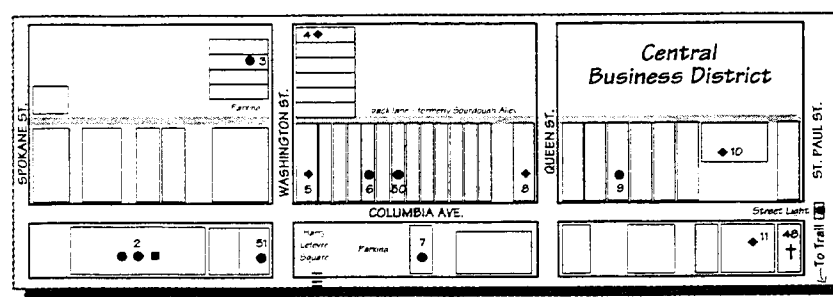
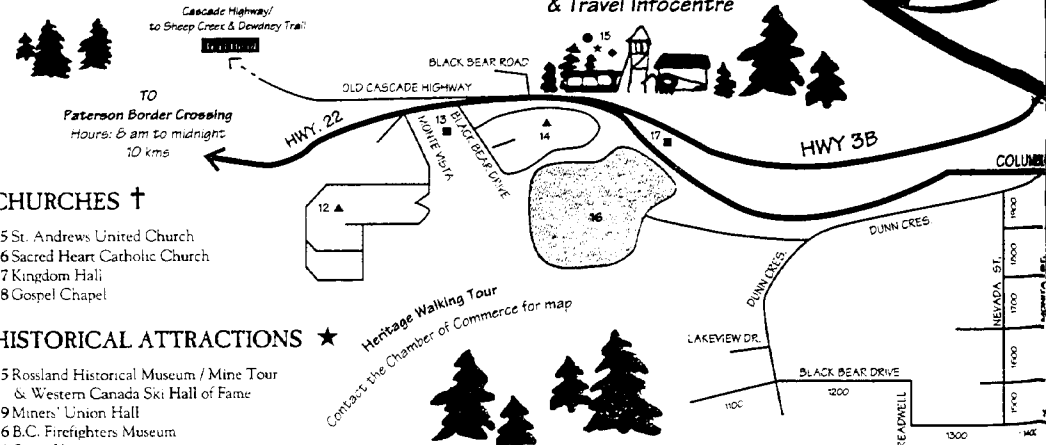
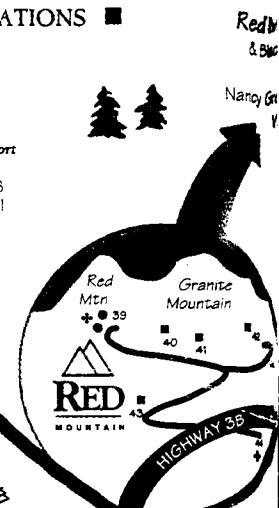
- 34 Rossland Golf Course
- 39 Red Mountain Ski Resort
- 44 Blackjack Cross-Country Skiing

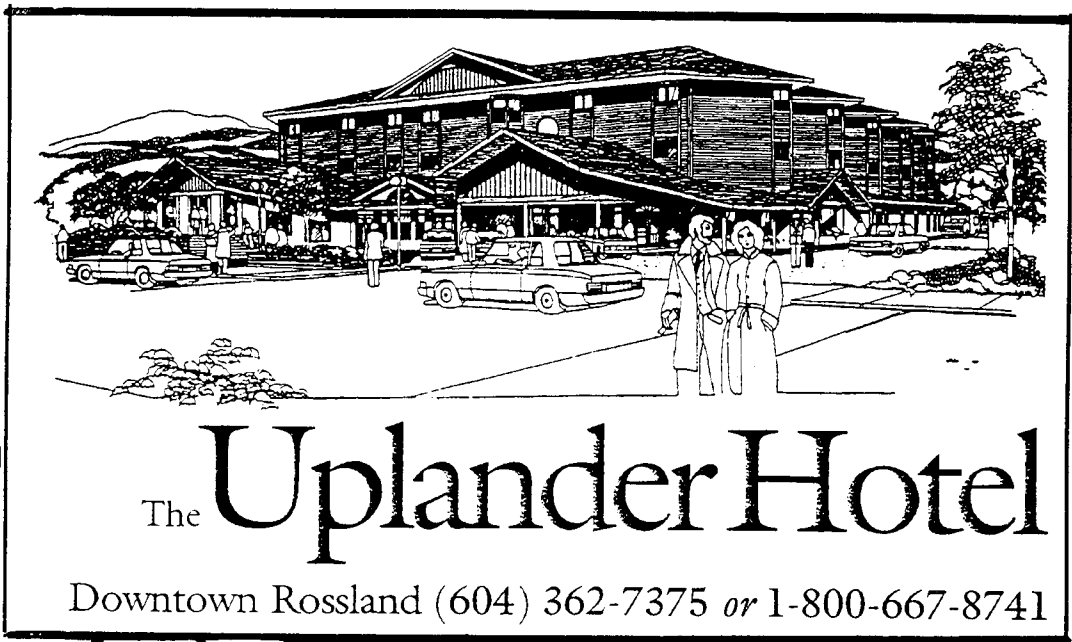
CHURCHES †

- 45 St. Andrews United Church
- 46 Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- 47 Kingdom Hall
- 48 Gospel Chapel

HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS ★

- 15 Rossland Historical Museum / Mine Tour & Western Canada Ski Hall of Fame
- 19 Miners' Union Hall
- 26 B.C. Firefighters Museum
- 30 Court House

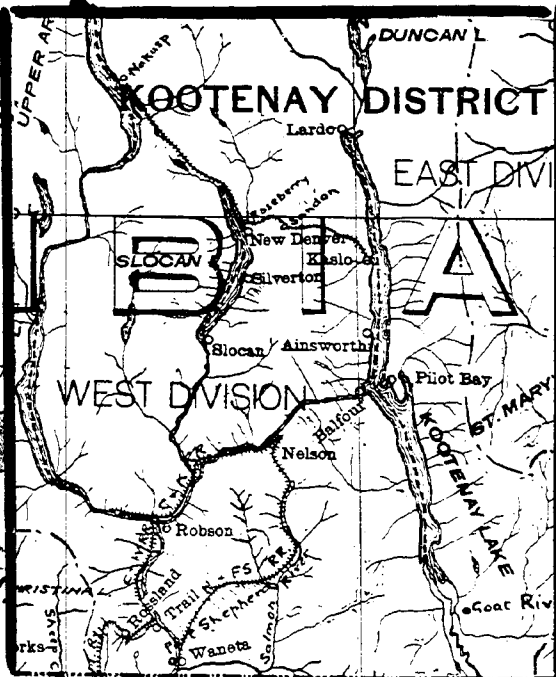
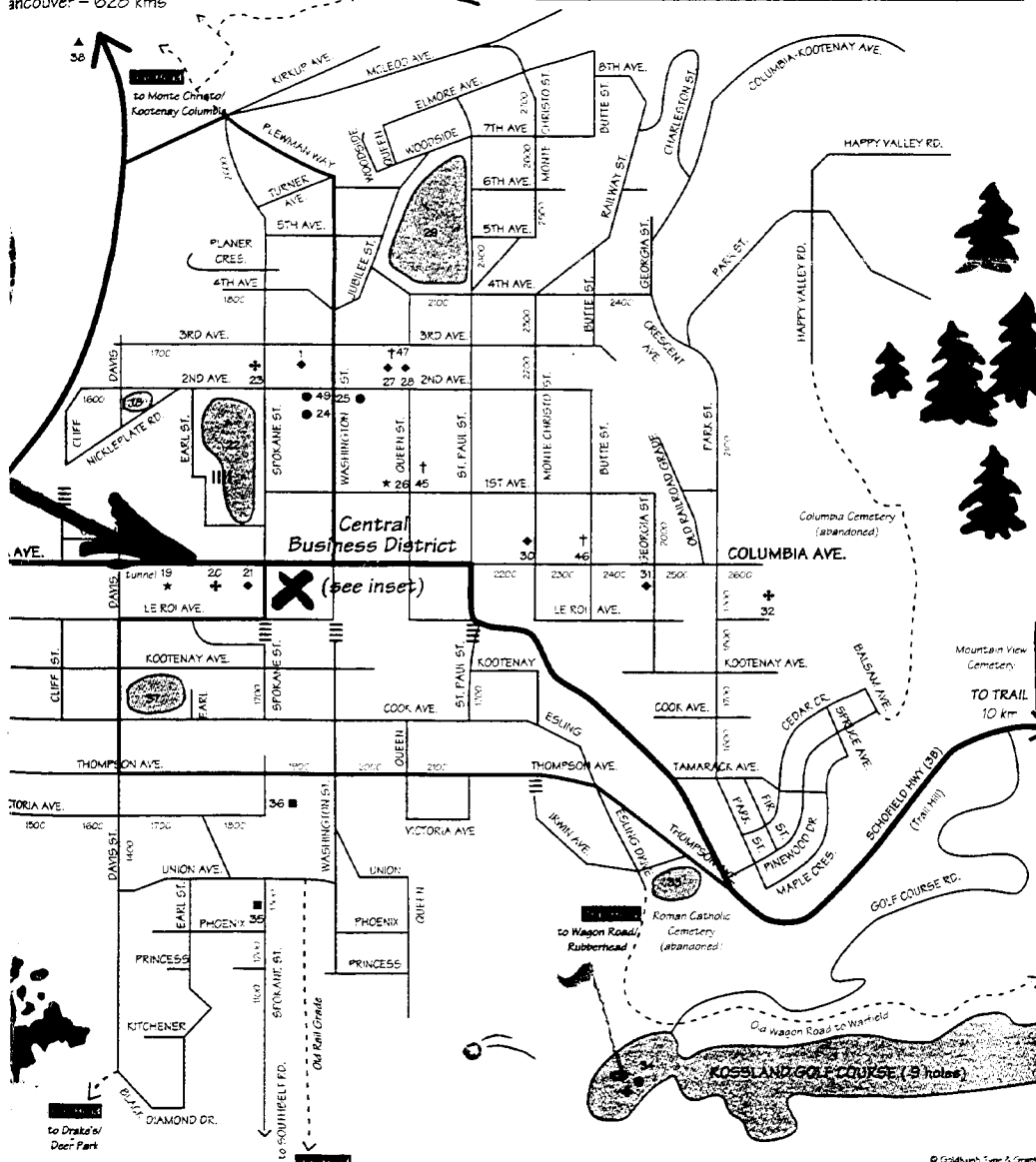




The Uplander Hotel

Downtown Rossland (604) 362-7375 or 1-800-667-8741

to
ountain Ski Resort
jack Cross Country Trails
3 km from town.
ene Provincial Park - 28 kms
ancouver - 625 kms



Oddments

Thanks to our **Book Finder Friends**, Silvia Pettam of the Book Lode, 721 Francis Street, Longmont, CO 80501-4210 and Mark Steen of Gold Hill Books, P. O. Box 1523, Longmont, CO 80502 for including announcements about the MHA activities in their book catalogs.

Roger Burt's World Wide Webb Page. Our friends at the Australian Mining History Association note that the address has changed to: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RBURT/MinHistNet/Roger> is on a three month tour of Asia and North America so may be slow to update the pages, but does list our newsletter and other information on the MHA for browsers.

Museums

Ronald Wolters sent the flyer for the Park City Silver Mine Adventure, the new museum at the historic Ontario mine near Park City, Utah. Ron designed and built several of the mine models and exhibits and sent videos of the detailed mine, mill, and camp model that he recreated for the museum. The Park City Silver Mine Adventure includes a descent of 1500 feet via the Ontario Mine shaft. For information on the site write P. O. Box 3178, Dept. B, Park City, Utah 84060. And for information on innovative modeling and exhibitry write Ron at 650 E. Brittany Dr. #307, Murray, UT 84107.

The Cripple Creek district, Colorado's richest goldfield, is the site of active preservation and interpretation. Some of the more active work has been at the instigation of Ed Hunter, who sends us a recent pamphlet "The Historic Tour of Victor, Colorado" and a leaflet on the new interpretive panels for the historic American Eagles Mines overlook. The tours help visitors realize, as Ed writes, that the road into the district doesn't end at the Cripple Creek casinos. Come to Victor, the city of mines. For copies write Ed at Box 186, Victor, CO 80860.

The Fourth Ward School, the pride of the Comstock Lodes's educators in 1876, is now home to two stories of collections and artifacts that tell the story of the silver queen, Virginia City, Nevada. MHA members may recall our first conference and the session in one of the building's classroom. The museum is improving its exhibits, but is seeking donations toward its goals of telling the Comstock communities' story. We have their recent flyer offering membership in the Fourth Ward School Museum, which goes to support their good work. Regular membership is \$15. Write them at P. O. Box 4, Virginia City, NV 89440.

Stu Carlson, member and Minerals Outreach Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management in Utah, sent word that he has a stack of the color

"Going for the Gold" poster available for the asking. The 2x3 foot poster depicts historic mining scenes - mills, mines, placer diggings, etc. He also has the smaller color poster on "Reclaiming Mined Land." The posters are educational, with the color drawing on one side geared for younger learners and the material on the reverse for more advanced students. Copies are available gratis from the agency. Write Stu Carlson, BLM (Utah 910), 324 South State, Room 301, Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303.

Preservation News

The Saratoga Graphite mine of Wilton, New York near Lake Saratoga, is the focus of a recording project May 11-12. A turn-of-the-century mining and milling complex will be recorded by a group of volunteers led by Carol Weatherwax and Matt Kierstead. Matt is inviting all New England members of MHA to join in the recording of mine sites, tram remains, mill foundations, and other features. For further information he can be reached at 6 Paine Street, Wellesley, MA 02181.

Preservation of mining sites comes in many forms, including the preservation of a site by documenting it with photographs, measured drawings, and descriptive record. Best known of this method is the Historic American Engineering Record process. Michael Piatt sent in another outlet, an article on the recordation of the Red Cloud Mine Complex, Bodie, California as used by modelers. The article appeared in the March/April, 1996, issue of the *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*, a magazine that has published much on mining history.

In follow-up to the article in the last issue of *Mining History News* on the Real de Los Cerrillos, one of the oldest mining sites in the U.S., copies of Homer Milford and Mike E. Swick's "Cultural Resource Survey for Real de los Cerrillos Project, Santa Fe County, New Mexico" are now available. For a gratis copy write Homer Milford, Abandoned Mine Land Bureau, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, 2040 South Pacheco St., Santa Fe, NM 87505. The MHA is accepting donations for the erection of a plaque on the site.

The Mining History Association still has a few of the Colorado Historic Preservation Week posters available. The poster highlights the Sound Democrat Mill, a turn of the century stamp mill located high in the San Juan Mountains, which is being stabilized by the Bureau of Land Management. Send us a card and we'll send a poster.

Conferences

The History of Geology Division of the Geological Society of America is planning two history sessions at their annual meet to be held in Denver October 27-31, 1996. The sessions are: 1) History of Mining in the Rocky Mountains, and 2) Impact of

the Western Surveys. For more information write William Brice, Geology and Planetary Sciences, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Johnstown, PA 15904

Gregg Wilkerson of the Bureau of Land Management Bakersfield office sent the list of upcoming events in MOTHER LODGE '96, a series of lectures and field trips planned for this summer. On May 31 three speakers will describe the geology, history and biology of the region; on June 1 a field trip will cover Placerville to Georgetown divide; and on June 2, a field trip will cover Placerville to Jackson. Later in the month, participants will cover Grass valley, Downieville, and LaPorte to Quincy. For more information write MOTHER LODGE '96, c/o BLM, 3801 Pegasus Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93308 or call Gregg at 805-391-6081. E:mail is: gwilkers@CA3265.bdo.blm.gov

Assistance Needed

Jerry Dolph is researching the life of Noah Spencer Kellogg the peripatetic prospector and discoverer of the Bunker-Hill Sullivan mine at Kellogg, Idaho. He is seeking any information that might help him in his digging up of facts. Jerry writes that his digging makes him feel like a miner again. The best way to contact him is by e:mail at jdolph@comtch.iea.com

Book Reviews

Priscilla Wegars, *The Ah Hee Diggings: Final Report of Archaeological Investigations at OR-GR-16, the Granite, Oregon, "Chinese Walls" Site, 1992 through 1994*. With an Appendix by Deborah L. Olson. *University of Idaho Anthropological Reports* No. 97. Moscow: Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, 1995. 250 pages, illustrations, appendices, bibliography. Price \$25.00 includes postage and handling. Order from Publications Department, Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Idaho, Moscow, Id. 83844-1111.

The "Chinese Walls" or "Ah Hee Diggings" site is located on Granite Creek near Granite, Or. Gold was discovered on Granite Creek in 1862 and by 1867 Chinese individuals and companies had begun to purchase or lease placer mining claims in the area. They were still mining there as late as 1891. Their legacy, a 60-acre site of hand-stacked rock tailings, ten to twelve feet high, is known today as the "Chinese Walls" or the "Ah Hee Diggings". During 1985 and 1990/1994, teams of historical archaeologists researched and excavated a terrace above these tailings. In 1992-1994, the archaeologists utilized Passport in Time volunteers in their field investigations. P.I.T. provides an opportunity for lay people to participate in archaeological projects under the supervision of professional archaeologists.

The work at "Ah Hee Diggings" yielded over 9200 artifacts. The great number of large cooking woks, Chinese cooking oil cans, earthenware vessels, tea cans, and Bamboo pattern table ceramics led the investigators to the conclusion that the site was where meals were prepared for, and consumed by, large numbers of Chinese miners. Because they recovered relatively few household or personal items, they concluded that only the cooks lived on the terrace site. Like Chinese laborers in other parts of the West, the artifacts at the "Chinese Walls" site revealed that its users consumed both Chinese and Euroamerican food and alcohol, utilized Chinese utilitarian and table ceramics, recycled materials for other uses and indulged in gambling and opium smoking. If the interpretation that this site represents a mess hall for Chinese miners is correct, it is the first site of this type so far discovered and scientifically excavated in the American West.

The report begins with a very brief introduction to the area's mining geology and environmental conditions (fauna, flora, terrain). Chapter 2 provides a historical overview of the Chinese in the region. Most of this overview discusses Baker City and devotes less than a page to Granite and the Granite mining district. The third chapter briefly mentions each of the many Chinese sites on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and vicinity. Chapters 4-6 examine the 1992-1993 excavations, the 1994 surveys, and the artifacts found and their analysis. Chapter 7 provides an interpretive discussion of site occupance and chapter 8 summarizes the results of the study and makes recommendations for management and interpretation-education. The appendix includes a complete listings of all artifacts that were recovered and Deborah Olson's analysis of the faunal remains.

While the sketches (line drawings) of the artifacts are well done, additional graphics would have supported and enhanced the text. The monograph contains only six photos and includes no views of the terrace site or hand-stacked tailings. Like many cultural resource reports, it contains USGS topographic maps reproduced in black and white. The result is adequate at best. Chapter 3 needs a detailed locational map. Even a reader familiar with northeastern Oregon probably wouldn't recognize many of the locations, since many are ghost towns or only small towns today. Even fewer readers would be familiar with such places as Washington Gulch or China Bar.

Typically, cultural resource reports are done under very tight temporal, financial, and support constraints. Wegars, however, manages to skillfully combine documentary research, archaeological excavation, and oral history to give a more complete picture of the Chinese in the Granite area than any one of these could do alone. Yet, although she utilized a wide variety of secondary sources and many primary ones, there are some sources that would provide additional insight. For a number of years the "Report of the Director of the Mint on

the Precious Metals" continued the detailed accounts of mining in the West started by the "Report of the Commissioner of Mines and Mining". The report for 1882, for instance, reported 140 men at work in the Granite District and a production of \$65,000, with \$60,000 of it produced by the Chinese. The following year the report noted that the Chinese produced most of the output of the district and specifically mentioned Cong Wing Chong, a Chinese Company, that had an extensive bar on Granite Creek. Newspapers and mining trade journals are good sources. *The Mining and Scientific Press* (January 27, 1883), for example, gives a rather lengthy account of mining in Grant County and about the Granite district, it reported that 16 hydraulics were in operation and of the 140 men employed in mining, 110 were Chinese. *The Oregon Herald* (September 3, 1867) the *Dallas Mountaineer* (February 8, 1868), and the August 6, 1879 issue of the *Bedrock Democrat* all contain detailed information about the arrival or workings of the Chinese in the Granite district.

Despite these criticisms, this is an excellent report worthy of wide circulation. Anyone familiar with Wegar's previous work will not be surprised by the quality of this monograph. It is not a run-of-the-mill CRM report but a fine example of what a CRM report should be. Wegars presents the findings and evaluations of the work at "Ah Hee Diggings" in a manner that not only archaeologists, but resource managers, as well as the general public, can understand. This is a report that should appeal to anyone interested in Chinese mining and lifeways in the Far West, and anyone researching the Chinese in northeastern Oregon should find its extensive bibliography invaluable.

The archaeologists who worked at "Ah Hee Diggings" are to be congratulated for involving the public in their work and thereby educating them. Besides the use of volunteers through the P.I.T. Program, they opened the excavations to the public and their work received extensive media coverage. Each year the P.I.T. Program typically includes several projects that investigate mining sites. I urge anyone interested in mining history to consider participating if they have the opportunity.

Randall E. Rohe
University of Wisconsin-Waukesha

William Wyckoff, Lary M. Dilsaver, et al., *The Mountainous West: Explorations in Historical Geography*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995, Illus., index, 420 pp., \$25.00.

William Wyckoff and Lary Dilsaver, the editors of this collection of fourteen essays, advertise *The Mountainous West* as the New Western History meeting historical geography, for the purpose of providing new insights on the underappreciated mountain subregions of the American West. These essays do address some of the issues of the moment in western history, but only those accessible through historical geography. (Of the fifteen

contributors, all but historian Duane Smith are geographers.) Issues of resource use, the environment, and the role of the federal government get considerable attention, race, ethnicity and gender, get little treatment here.

In their introductory bibliographic essay, the editors argue that "the West" has traditionally and somewhat erroneously been interpreted in terms of its arid, treeless prairies and deserts, rather than its mountains, which are often abundantly supplied with wood and water. The mountainous West, though underpopulated and isolated compared to other parts of the region, is often a critical element in western history and life. The articles in *The Mountainous West* are divided among five themes: mountains as barriers to communication and interaction, as islands of moisture, as zones of concentrated resources, as areas of government control, and as restorative sanctuary. A final section deals with "the mountain-valley interface."

Of particular interest to mining historians will be two essays under the mountains-as-barriers theme by Duane Smith and Cathy Kindquist. Both authors use the example of Colorado's San Juan Mountains to make abundantly clear the absolute necessity of dependable transportation and communications to the development of a mineral district. Randall Rohe makes the same point in his essay on environmental impacts of historic mining, in which he also discusses how different mountain environments affected mining and milling processes.

The remaining ten essays deal with mining only peripherally, but will be of interest to students of western history. John Dietz and Albert Larson examine settlement patterns in the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado; Thomas Vale may kick up a little dust with his essay contending that western water policy was not a disaster; lumbering in the Northwest is reviewed by Michael Williams; and John James describes overcrowding at Lake Tahoe.

A few criticisms are in order. The maps in this book are of uneven utility, a surprising thing to say about a book of essays in historic geography. Native-American cultures are scarcely mentioned, which the editors justify with the statement that "the emergence of the Mountainous West as a distinctive region" began with the departure rather than the presence of the indigenous populations. Surely, however, mountain cultures and subsistence strategies differed from those of the prairie or desert, and might be worth examining. Some of the essays, such as an examination of homesteading in the Pryor Mountains of Montana by Victor Konrad, or of the formation of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Area in California by Lary Dilsaver, are too localized to permit generalization about the mountain West. There is no concluding essay or summation. The book ends abruptly after Kay's discussion of Mormons and mountains. Perhaps an afterword by the editors or an essay comparing of the mountainous West of the United States with that of Canada or Mexico would have brought the book to a more graceful conclusion.

Many of these criticisms are of problems naturally encountered trying to meld the work of fifteen authors into a coherent whole. Any reader of *The Mountainous West* will find some of its essays fascinating and others a little dry, but this effort to bring together diverse opinions upon an important subject (particularly to mining historians) is generally well managed and worthwhile.

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Anspach, David W., *The Funny Side of Mining*, David W. Anspach, 431 Broad Street, Pen Argyl, PA 18072-1901, 1996, 178 p., 65 photos, 5 pp. maps/diagrams. Available from the author: \$12.00, plus 1.50, postage/handling.

My curiosity was aroused by a recent Internet posting from Pennsylvania soliciting orders for an inexpensive, self-published book with the intriguing title *The Funny Side of Mining*, by David Anspach. I presumed the book dealt with coal mining (not a particular interest of mine) and, thus, became even more curious when I learned that Mr. Anspach had worked at and written about Bethlehem Steel's Grace and Cornwall iron mines (underground), and the nearby Lebanon, PA mill and pelletizing plant.

I ordered the book.

Anspach has not attempted a history of the mines themselves. Rather, the book is both an eclectic retrospective on his own 16 years (1951 - 1977) as a miner and millman and a personal celebration of hardrock mining culture. In his brief introduction, Anspach proclaims that "hard rockers...were a special breed of people who worked hard, fought hard, and...would tackle any job just to prove they were capable", and aptly notes that "[v]ery little has been written of the humor and working language of the [hardrock miner]."

While Anspach lacks the eloquence of a Morrison or a Voynick (I suspect much of the book was transcribed from audio recordings of his reminiscences), his anecdotes ring true. These tales are entertaining throughout and, as the title suggests, often amusing. Read together with the Lapham and Sims papers in the AIME's *Ore Deposits in the United States*, for example, this book will add a vital human dimension to the understanding of post-World War II iron mining in this more than 200-year-old district.

Somewhat mystifying, however, are the author's two digressions into detailed listings of neighbors in the communities in which he grew up and lived. While of potential use to local historians, these chapters have little interest to the mining historian.

On the whole, however, those shortcomings are minor. And, although the book's "production values" are certainly not slick, Anspach successfully avoids a number of the aggravating problems typical of similar self-published efforts. The text appears to have been thoroughly proof read without doing violence to the author's own style. The book is liberally sprinkled with interesting photos from the personal collections of co-workers, and reproduction quality is (with a few exceptions) quite good. Finally, the price is right. At \$12.00, it deserves a spot on the shelf of anyone interested in the modern American miner or underground iron mining.

The Funny Side of Mining makes a small, but not insignificant, contribution to the largely under-chronicled history of hardrock mining east of the Mississippi. More importantly, it adds to the meager (but, thankfully, growing) list of narrative histories by those best able to describe working in America's mines.

(REVIEWER'S NOTE: When the Grace mine closed in 1977, Anspach began a 17-year stint as a federal mine inspector. He concludes *The Funny Side* by noting, "I may have some [time] to write about that someday." Let's hope he does.)

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