

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 9 · April 1998 · Number 2

Bisbee Bound

Mason Coggin, Carrie Gustavson and Gary Dillard have been busy putting the finishing touches on our Ninth Annual Mining History Conference at Bisbee, June 4-7. We have a full four days of events, talks, tours, and good social activities. Hope to see you there.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the registration sheet and details on when and where events occur. As in the past we have planned for approximately 100 participants, but rumor has it that we will exceed that number. So, please register early to ensure a seat at the table or on the bus.

We will not only explore mining history at an excellent selection of papers and sessions, but will explore the old town and its workings, including under ground at the Copper Queen Mine Tour. Our Friday night banquet will be at the mine so, please, dress like a westerner (casual).

The bus to Cananea, Mexico is a real treat. It is a major copper operation, with smelter at work. Travel to Mexico is easy, but all members of the MHA tour will need a photo Identification (drivers license or passport). We recommend you bring a backpack of snacks and water, though we will be well fed in Mexico and upon return that evening at the Turquoise Valley Country Club near Bisbee.

We want to remind you, again, that the former copper camp has become an attractive getaway and that early hotel reservations are a must.

The Bisbee Chamber of Commerce flyer was included as part of the last newsletter. They can provide further assistance by calling 520-432-5421. Also, if you are interested in staying longer in Arizona or wish to use a Bed & Breakfast reservation service we recommend MI CASA SU CASA, P. O. Box 950, Tempe, AZ 85280-0950 or call 602-990-0682 (reservations 1-800-456-0682).

Thanks

We are fortunate to have the Phelps Dodge Corporation, who's mining roots go back to 1880 Bisbee, as a sponsor of some of this year's events. They have been good friends to mining historians, either through the foresight to donate past records to the University of Arizona for the use of scholars or the continued support of research, writing and publications about Arizona's mining past.

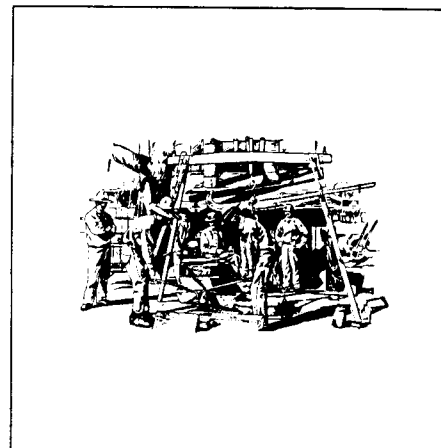
Thanks too to Robert Trennert, Homer Milford, and Erik Nordberg as this year's program committee. We have a full and interesting agenda.

But, most importantly, thanks to our local arrangements committee, Mason Coggin, Carrie Gustavson, Gary Dillard and others in Bisbee, who have worked on the details of the conference. We will use the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum, Carrie Gustavson, director, in the heart of town as our center for information and registration. Do say hi to Carrie and friends at the museum, who will be providing coffee, donuts, and a smile.

Tombstone

Besides our events at Bisbee, we will also have a day in Tombstone, the center of one of the last big silver rushes, better known today for events at a corral. When Hollis Cook, manager of the Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park heard of our conference he offered to roll out the carpet to attract our group to spend time in the "Town too Tough to Die."

Thanks to Hollis and his staff we will begin registration at Tombstone on Thursday morning at the courthouse, an easy to spot brick Victorian structure at Toughnut and Third streets. We have also been offered a discount to the ASARCO Mineral Discovery Center. There are many attractions, but worth the visit are the courthouse, Bird Cage Theater, C. S. Fly photo studio, Tombstone Epitaph newspaper, and Crystal Palace Saloon.



President's Page

Recently a colleague persuaded me not to write a mining history book on a contemporary subject. He argued that readers reject anything that lacks the romantic charm of the nineteenth century. For the moment, at least, I am dissuaded. But I'm convinced that when the recent past acquires a sufficiently antique patina, the mining historians of the future will have as good a time as we did with the nineteenth century. Let's consider a recent sampling:

The race to mine rich deposits results in chaos and marathon battles between armed gangs. Outgunned government officials make no attempt to exert control. Lawlessness and violence spread, working conditions are shockingly harsh, but miners pour in hoping for quick wealth. Sounds like Pioche in the early 1870s doesn't it? Actually, it's the gold rush in Qinghai province in western China, 1995.

A small rebel band in the mountains survives by mining gold, which they use to bribe soldiers sent to exterminate them. As the rebellion gathers strength, mining companies seize upon the advantageous terms offered by rebel leaders to friendly investors. The government falls. Did it happen in nineteenth century South America? Wrong -- it's the rebellion led by Laurent Kabila to unseat the government of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire culminating in the 1990s.

While constructing a road to a mine, a mining surveyor and geologist is ambushed and killed in a gunfight with three attackers. The owner of the adjoining property is believed connected with the murder. Was it hangtown in the bad old days of the California gold rush? No, it's the death of Nevadan George Wilson in Limones, Honduras in 1998.

New tests fail to uncover a trace of value in a deposit trumpeted as the richest discovery in a generation, perhaps a century. A geologist closely connected with the affair dies, an

apparent suicide. A major stock exchange is several times shut down by the frenzied sell off in which investors lose vast amounts of money. Will Clarence King come riding over the mountain slope on his mule to expose another great diamond swindle, as he did in 1872. No, I'm sure you guessed this one. It's the Bre-X scandal of 1997, involving a fictitious gold deposit in Busang, Indonesia, investor losses of \$3 billion, and the mysterious death of geologist Michael de Guzman.

Did anyone say that mining history has turned into mere description of technological advances? It's as dramatic today as it was more than a hundred years ago.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Bisbee.
Sally Zanjani
Reno, Nevada

Readings

Individuals new to the Southwest or unfamiliar with its history have asked for some suggested readings on Bisbee and environs. The following list is a start:

Carlos A. Schwantes, ed., *Bisbee, Urban Outpost on the Frontier* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1992) in a large format book with a fabulous collection of photographs and essays by known scholars, including Clark Spence, Schwantes and Tom Vaughn, Bisbee's major events are highlighted.

Richard Shelton, *Going Back to Bisbee* (Tucson: University of Arizona, 1992) is a well-written non-fiction travel and interpretive review of the modern landscape with comments about the past.

C. L. Sonnichsen, *Colonel Greene and the Copper Skyrocket* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1972) is the study of Cananea's beginnings.

Isabel S. Fathauer, *Lemuel S. Shattuck, A Little Mining, A Little Banking, A Little Beer* (Tucson: Westernlore, 1991) provides a biography of one of the other non-Phelps Dodge mining men of Bisbee and Cochise County.

Memorial

Russell R. Elliott, first vice-president and second president of the Mining History Association, died March 16, 1998 in Reno, Nevada. He was 85. Russ was an early supporter of the MHA and lent his name, guiding hand, and friendship during the first years of the organization. Because of ill health in recent years he was unable to attend our annual gatherings or be as active as he wished.

He is best known to members as professor of history at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he taught for twenty-eight years, and as author of a number of exemplary mining histories. The list includes: *The History of Fifty Years of Mining at Tonopah* (1953); *Nevada's Twentieth-Century Mining Boom -- Tonopah, Golfield, Ely* (1966); *History of Nevada* (1973); *Servant of Power, A Political Biography of Senator William M. Stewart* (1983); and *Growing Up in a Company Town, A Family in the Copper Camp of McGill, Nevada* (1990), an autobiographical look at early-twentieth century Nevada.

His gentle manner made him an approachable member of our organization, and his positive remarks to younger members was always appreciated. His knowledge of Nevada mining history was unexcelled and he willingly shared information and gave suggestions.

**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.

JUNE 4 THURSDAY

- 8am-2pm. *Registration at the Tombstone Courthouse State Park, Tombstone, Arizona*
 Tour The Town to Tough to Die
 MHA members discount to ASARCO Mineral Discovery Center
 Follow suggested ghost town trail drives to Bisbee
- 3pm-5pm. *Registration at Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, Bisbee, Arizona*
- 6pm-8pm *Welcoming Reception, Copper City Brewery Company in Copper Queen Plaza, across the street*
 from the museum.
 Welcome by Phelps Dodge

JUNE 5, FRIDAY

- 8am-5pm *Registration at Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum*
- 8:30am and 11:30am *Walking tours of Bisbee and museum*
- 12:00 *Lunch at Copper Queen Plaza (Convention Center)*
 Speaker: Carlos Schwantes,
 "The Many Landscapes of Phelps Dodge"

All Sessions at Presbytarian Annex

1:30-2:50pm, Session 1: Arizona Mining Through the Years, Chair: Sally Zanjani

Anna Domitrovic, "The King is Dead, Long Live the King: A Personalized History of the Kofa Mining District of Southwestern Arizona"

Mason Coggin, "Roots of the Calumet and Arizona"

Richard Graeme, "The Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company, 1885-1917: A History of the Company and its Employees"

Charles W. Miller, "The Automobile Gold Rush in 1930s Arizona"

2:50-3:15pm, Break

3:15-4:15pm, Session 2: Globe / Miami / Superior. Chair: Bob Spude

Andrew J. Hardy, "Old Dominion of Globe, Arizona"

Lew Orrell & Erik Nordberg, "The Arizona & Michigan Mining Company: Another Pothole in the Rocky Road to Fortune."

Douglas E. Kupel, "Magma Mine: Preservation Challenges and Prospects"

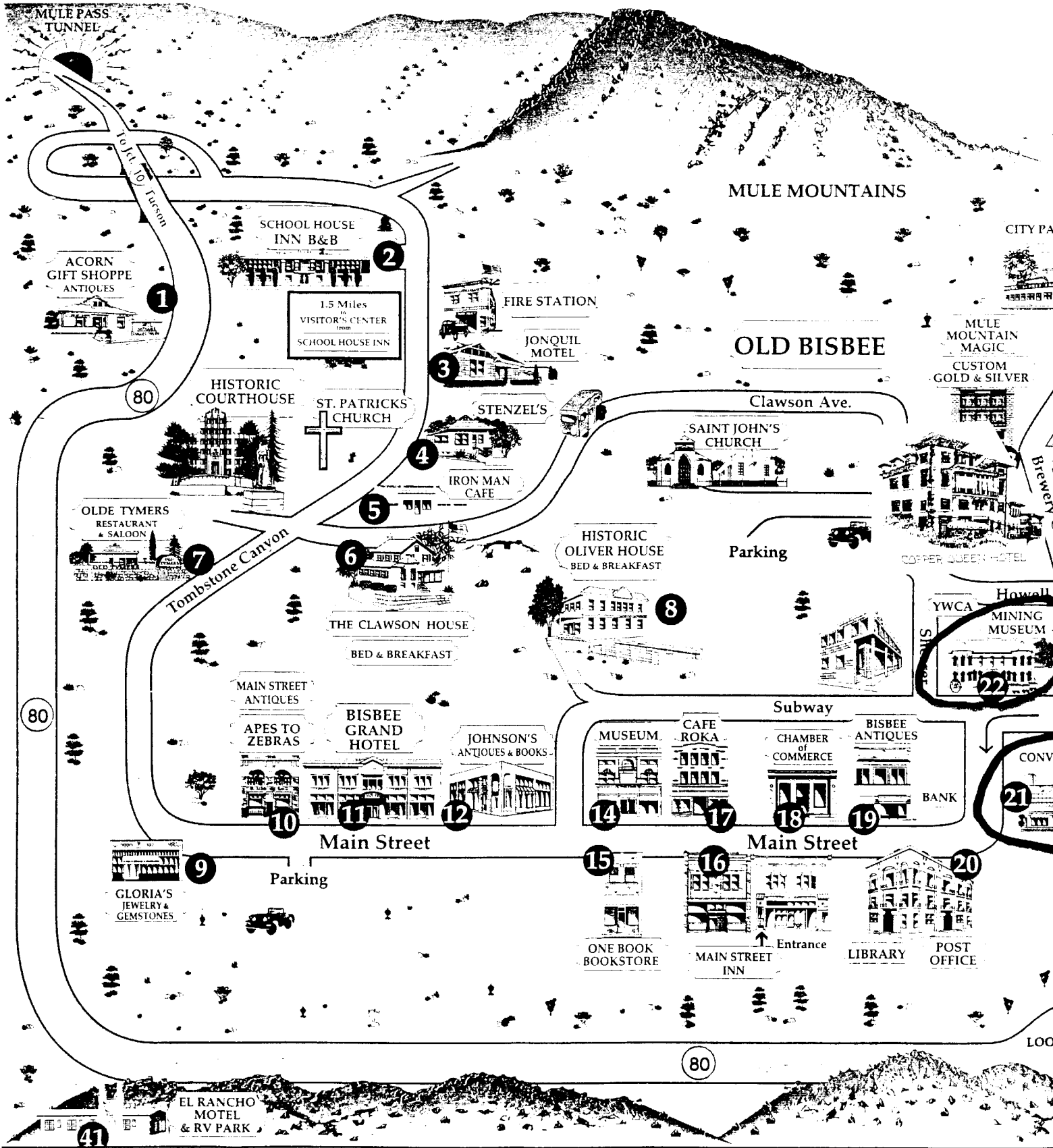
4:30-5:30pm, MHA Business Meeting

6:00-7:00pm, Complimentary Copper Queen Mine Tours (dress casual)

7:00pm Awards Banquet in the Copper Queen Mine Tour Building

Speaker: Richard Francaviglia,

"The Historical Geography of the Warren Mining District"



92

SAN JOSE

SAN JOSE LODGE

EL COBRE RESTAURANT

1.5 Miles

TURQUOISE VALLEY GOLF & RV PARK

40

Newell Rd.

92

37

SAFeway

38

TACHO'S TACOS

NACO HWY.

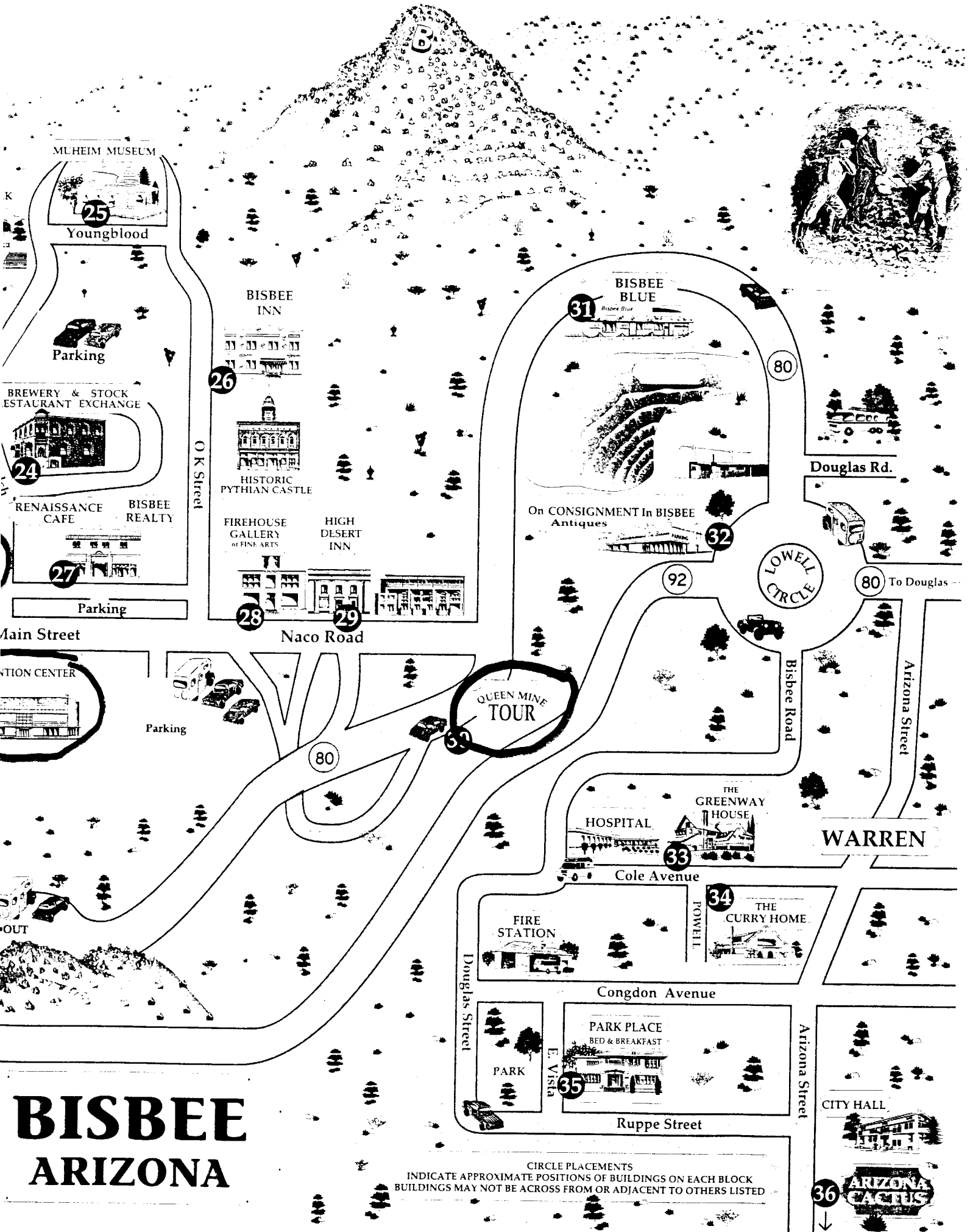
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BISBEE ARIZONA

CIRCLE PLACEMENTS INDICATE APPROXIMATE POSITIONS OF BUILDINGS ON EACH BLOCK BUILDINGS MAY NOT BE ACROSS FROM OR ADJACENT TO OTHERS LISTED



June 6, SATURDAY

8am-5pm, Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum open for information and registration

All Sessions in Presbyterian Church Annex

8:30-9:50am, Session 3: *pudding Stone: A Conglomerate of Mining Topics*, Chair: Homer Milford

C.C. Hawley, "The Years for Birch: Wesley Earl Dunkle, 1910-1929"

Matthew A. Kierstead, "Mining History in New England and New York: A Brief Overview, Two Case Studies, and Future Challenges"

James D. Sell, "Scams, Schemes, Gullibility, and Lust!"

Larry M. Southwick, "Ralph Baggaley and his Amazing Copper Converting Machine"

9:50-10:15am Break

10:15-11:45am, Session 4: *The Social Collective: Labor, Housing, and Entertainment*, Chair: Robert Trennert

James D. MacBride, "Showdown at Bisbee: The Wobbly Deportation of 1917"

Lynn Bjorkman, "Warren Manning's Landscape Designs and Planning for Mining Communities in Michigan and Arizona"

Duane A. Smith, "Mining in Song: The Ballad of Baby Doe"

11:45-1:15, Presidential Luncheon at Copper Queen Plaza

Speaker: MHA President Sally Zanjani,

"Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950"

1:30-2:50pm, Session 5: *Mining Around the Great River Rio Grande, 1700s to 1900s*, Chair: Donald Hardesty

Karen & Mark Vendl, "The Road to Ouray"

Ed Hunter, "The Carlton Tunnel: It Never Was a Bore!"

Jeremy Mouat & Homer Milford, "The Treasure of the Sierra

Grande: Whitaker Wright, The Lake Valley Mines and Speculative Finance, 1880-1885"

Rick Hendricks, "Silver At the Pass: Eighteenth-Century Mining Claims in El Paso del Norte"

2:50-3:15pm, Break

3:15-4:15pm, Session 6: *It Ain't Just Gold and Silver in Them Thar Hills*, Chair: Erik Nordberg

Katrien J. Van der Hoeven, "Asbestos Mining in Arizona"

George D. Torok, "Coal Mining Towns of Eastern Kentucky"

John Hillman, "Llallagua vs. Unificada: Competing Visions of Tin Mining in Bolivia, 1929 -1952"

Evening on Your Own

June 7, SUNDAY

8am-8pm All-day Bus Tour to Cananea. Lunch provided as is Bar B-Q Dinner at the Turquoise Valley Country Club, Lowell.

Ghost Town Trail

MHA members who arrive early enough Thursday may want to take the slow road to Tombstone and Bisbee, better known as the Ghost Town trail. The desert country of Cochise County was the scene of dozens of boom and bust mining camps. This route will take you through some of the better known, as well as those where only a trace remains.

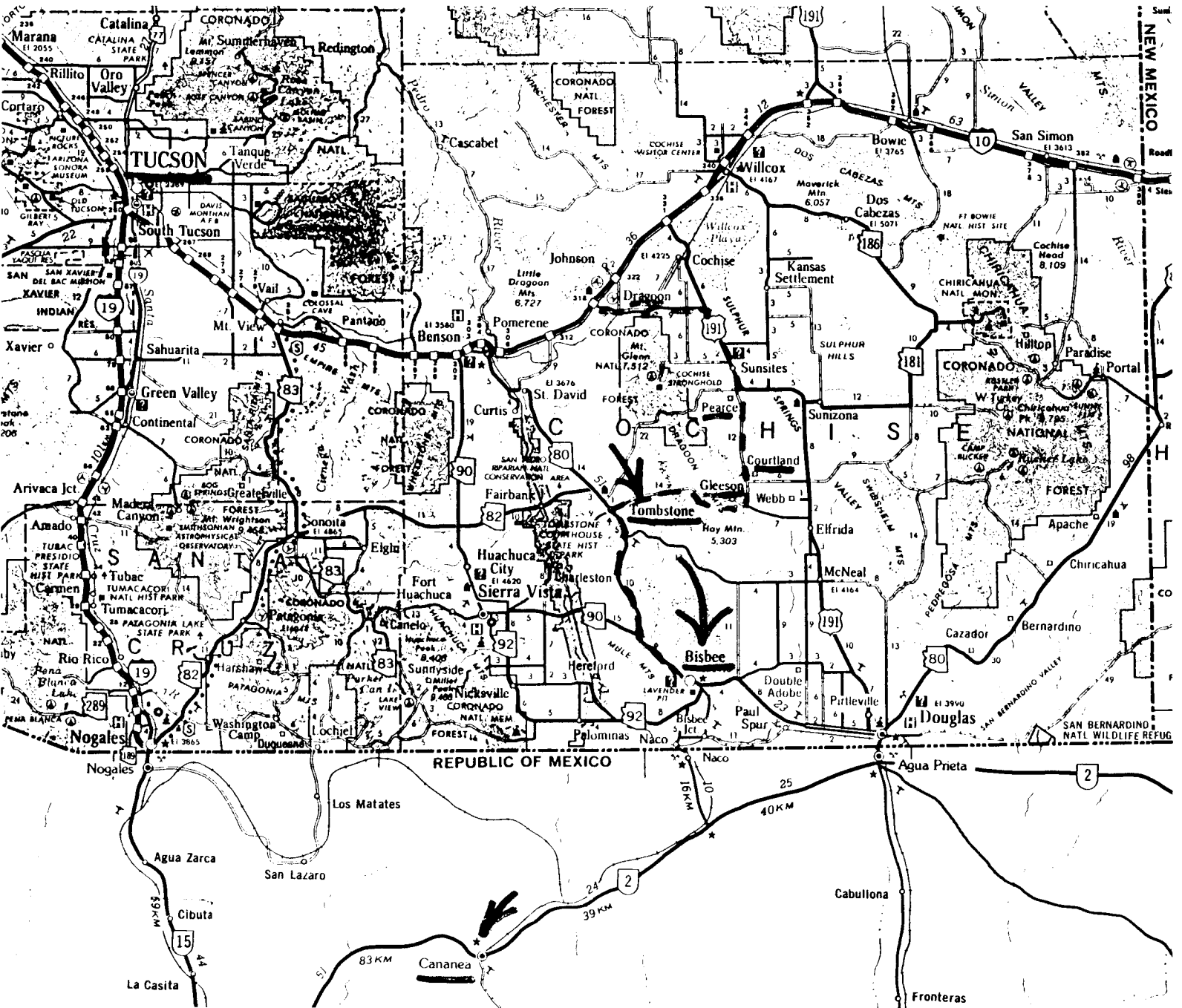
From Interstate 10 exit at Texas canyon for Dripping Springs, a former highway town now bust. Follow the paved Dripping Springs Road to State Route 191. The

scenery is grand until you enter the broad, flat Sulphur Springs Valley. The road to Pearce, the first stop, can be missed easily. Follow the map closely, and past Sunsites take the right veer in the road when 191 turns left. Pearce boomed in the 1890s as a silver camp. A former store, artifacts and the mine and mill site are visible. From Pearce the road becomes a well graded dirt road to Courtland, a one-time boom copper camp with two railroads. The jail and little else remains.

Past Courtland the dirt road winds through the foothills to Gleeson, another

boom copper camp that has busted. Gleeson has a few more buildings, but it too is silent, even the once open bar has closed. From Gleeson the dirt road heads straight for Tombstone, registration headquarters. Tombstone is well worth a day itself. The former courthouse, now a state park, will serve as registration for the conference on Thursday morning and early afternoon. They always are ready with information.

Allow two hours for your ghost town tour and take plenty of water and snacks. There are no services. Tombstone can provide all of what the traveler needs.



Tour Lake Valley, New Mexico

Homer Milford of the State of New Mexico abandoned mine lands program has organized a post-conference tour of Lake Valley, New Mexico. Lake Valley is a silver mining district in southern New Mexico that attracted national attention in 1881 for its stock promotion. The shallow limestone silver deposit contained pockets of almost pure silver, one of these called the Bridal Chamber was reportedly the largest silver vug in the Southwest. The Bureau of Land Management has made Lake Valley the focus of one of its Scenic Byways and has preserved the school house as a museum.

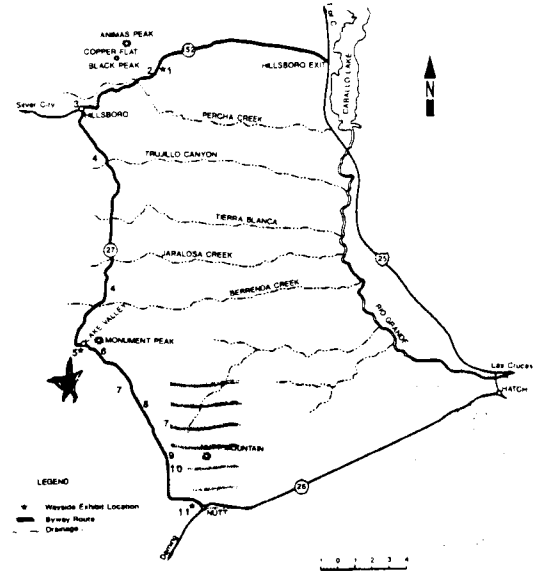
Unfortunately the mines of the district are on private property and are usually not open to the public. An exception has been arranged for MHA members and guests for Monday June 8, 1998, following the Bisbee conference. If you

are driving from Bisbee, you should be able to arrive in Lake Valley (about 4 hours travel time) for the tour, which will start from the Lake Valley School House museum at 1:30 p.m. You will need to sign a liability waiver if you wish to tour the mines on private property. There are no services in Lake Valley -- bring water, food, and gas, and dress comfortable.

Directions from Bisbee: Travel any route north to I-10. Take I-10 east to Deming, New Mexico and exit to U.S. 180, north; 1.2 miles north of Deming turn right onto State Road 26 (highway to Hatch). Twenty-eight miles east on SR 26 is Nutt (one house and a bar), the near abandoned terminal of the abandoned branch rail line to Lake Valley. At Nutt you turn north on New Mexico Road 27 and in thirteen miles you will see the BLM signs and houses of Lake Valley off the road to your right (east). Drive in on the dirt road

(through the open BLM gate) and go to the school house. We will meet there.

Please sign up early; we will have a registration sheet for the Lake Valley tour at the conference registration desk in Bisbee. We need a pre-event nose count to ensure a good and safe tour for all.



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Denver, Colorado 80215

