

Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

December, 2001



Volume 12, Number 4

President's Column

Unknown; What's in a Name?

By Richard Francaviglia

Let me begin this column with a confession: I played hooky from the Sunday field trips at MHA meeting in Butte last June. Instead of joining our group for one of the fine field trips they'd arranged, I drove my rental car into the rugged country behind the mining town of Philipsburg, Montana. Although I love well-organized field trips like those conducted by MHA, I sometimes just have to take off and explore mining landscapes by myself. That Sunday dawned clear and cool, and a number of mine dumps in the mountains behind Philipsburg beckoned: I'd seen some of them before on an organized field trip about seven years ago; now I'd take the entire day and explore them at my leisure.

As my rental car crunched along the gravel roads, I consulted a map to keep myself oriented. It confirmed that this area was complex, consisting of steep-sided canyons and back roads that forked like lightning. As I'd remembered, the entire area was dotted with mine dumps. Stopping the car near the confluence of two rushing creeks, I began to explore one of the dumps to determine what type of ore bodies had been mined. Perhaps by chance, the first dump I began to explore was an absolute treasure trove: Within the space of a few dozen square feet, I located specimens of metalliferous schists laced with lenses of limestone

and calcite. Here and there, specimens of pyrite, chalcopryite, siderite, and manganese ores littered the dump. The geology was complex, with igneous rocks (mostly granite) and metamorphic rocks abundant. One specimen on this dump was the most impressive find of the day – a large chunk of rock about the size of a small child's torso. It was truly beautiful, consisting of bands of dark green chlorite schist interspersed with streaks of whitish calcite – the green of the schist accentuated by hundreds of dark red, pea-size garnet crystals. I knew that this specimen reminded me of something, but I couldn't remember what....

I usually break large specimens into smaller pieces, but this one was too beautiful to break. Lugging it down the hillside, I washed it off in a creek and set it into the trunk of the rental car. Consulting my map, I wanted to be sure to note the name of the mine where I'd found this specimen. As I oriented myself to the map, I was amazed to learn that the mine was called the "Speckled Trout." I suddenly realized that the banded, colorful pattern of a trout was *exactly* what the specimen reminded me of! I wondered: did specimens like this inspire miners to so name this mine? True, I realized that the Speckled Trout mine may have been named for other reasons – perhaps someone caught (or saw) a speckled trout in one of the streams nearby, for example. But it is certainly possible that the discoverer of this mine was impressed by the same type of distinctive banded, garnet-strewn rock I'd found.

This got me to thinking about why

and how mines are named. Surely, the naming of a mine is never as simple as it seems, for by naming something we express wishes and dreams. We also reveal loyalties and memories by the names that we choose for things. The title of this column is inspired not only by a quote from Shakespeare (who doubted that names really had much meaning at all), but also from a recent essay by Jeffrey J. Safford (professor emeritus of history, Montana State University). Like me, Safford respectfully disagrees with Shakespeare on this matter: We both believe that names *are* important. In an article in Montana: The Magazine of Western History (Autumn, 2000), Safford noted that "many prospectors put much meaning into the names of their claims." Safford, who studied the naming of quartz mines in Montana, further notes that that "how prospectors titled their discoveries provides clues about who they

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| President's Column | 1 |
| Organizational Notes | 2 |
| Call for Papers | 3 |
| Wallace Meeting | 4 |
| Meeting Notes | 5 |
| Museum & Book Notes | 6 |
| Drill Bits | 7 |

were, their backgrounds, and the environments they worked in." As mining historians in search of clues, we ought to scrutinize *everything* that miners did. This includes deciphering the names they left on the land, for discovering a mine, like reeling in a speckled trout, suggests considerable good fortune. Like Professor Safford, I believe that names reflect deep beliefs and values. Many names left by miners suggest that they brought considerable wit, intelligence, and hope into frontier locales like Montana.

And so what happened to that beautiful, thirty pound, speckled trout-like specimen from the Montana mine of the same name? I wrapped it in newspaper, stuck it in a box, and shipped it home on my flight out of Butte the next day. When friends see it in my patio garden in Texas, they often ask me about "that beautiful rock." As a mining historian, I'm glad to tell them what I know about it and the mine from which it came. Like most things associated with mining history, the story that this rock helps to tell is based on two types of clues -- the tangible (like ores and buildings) and the intangible (like names and dreams) -- that make mining history so intriguing.

Organizational Notes

MHA Annual Breakfast

More than thirty people attended a very successful MHA breakfast held Friday, October 5, 2001, at the Western History Association's meeting in San Diego, California. Although a MHA board quorum was not present, a couple of items were discussed -- one of which will require formal approval.

First (no approval needed), discussion was given to the issue that Chip Hughes will no longer produce the MHA Journal after this issue. Eric Clements, who edits the Journal, suggested that he would look into the possibility of also being able to oversee the Journal's production. Eric believes that

he may be able to identify printers in his area where the MHA Journal could be printed.

Second (requires Board approval), Richard Francaviglia suggested that the title of the MHA secretary position be changed to executive secretary. This non-paid position is crucial in that the person who holds it advises the president and board, and acts (in effect) as parliamentarian and coordinator of the association's affairs. Those present agreed that changing the title to "executive secretary" recognizes the importance of this position, and may help to attract a replacement for Bob Spude. It was also noted that any person invited to serve in this role should have the "institutional support" of their host institution or organization.

Membership Survey

In the March 2000 issue of the *Mining History News*, a survey developed by Eric Clements was sent to MHA members to determine their desires for future conferences, materials to be showcased in the newsletter, etc. According to Eric, 152 surveys were returned. Here is a summary of some of the results of this survey. Thanks, Eric.

I am interested in (type of mining):

All 29, Gold 51, Copper 35, Silver 21, Coal 16, Metals 10, Lead 7, Iron 6, Hardrock 5, Underground 4, Industrial Minerals 4, Zinc 3, Nuclear Metals 2, Precious Metals 2, Non-Ferrous 2, Railroad 2; 1 vote each: Chinese Metalics, Regional, Cornish, Placer.

My period of interest is:

1848-1910=123; 1900-present=89; 1800-1850=38; Pre-1800=36.

Home:

Colorado 14, Arizona 9, California 6, Nevada 5, Illinois 4, Missouri 4, Alaska 4, Idaho 3, New Mexico 3, Alabama 3, Michigan 3, Wisconsin 2, Texas 2, Utah 2; with 1 each: Arkansas, Florida,

Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington.

Region of Interest:

Western US 51, Colorado 19, Southwest US 11, Nevada 10, Northern Rockies 10, All 9, Great Lakes 8, Alaska 7, California 7, Midwest US 6, Canada 5, Mexico 5, Pacific Coast 5, Rocky Mountains 5, Europe 4, Eastern US 3, Black Hills 3, Australia 1, Africa 1.

I am involved with mining through:

Archeology 21, Historic Preservation 35, Avocation 62, Geology 38, Museum 20, Family 24, Metallurgy 24, Library/Archives 23, Teaching 23, Industry 36, Books 35, Miner 24, Other 23.

Age:

30-39 = 4; 40-49 = 24; 50-59 = 39; 60-69 = 46; 70-79 = 18; 80-89 = 7; 90+ = 1.

Gender:

Male 135, Female 17

Locations for MHA Meeting: (receiving more than one vote)

Juneau, Alaska
Prescott, Arizona
Sacramento, California
Leadville, Colorado
Cripple Creek, Colorado
Mesabi Range, Minnesota
Carson City/Reno, Nevada
Deadwood, South Dakota
Park City, Utah

Correction

The email address given for Robert Sorgenfrei in the last newsletter was incorrect. His correct address is: Rsorgenf@mines.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS



THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

WALLACE, IDAHO
JUNE 20 -23, 2002

The program committee for the Wallace, Idaho meeting of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (including chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions normally include three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no temporal or geographic limits.

Proposals should include an abstract (one paragraph) for each paper, plus biographical information about each presenter and session participant. Please send the written proposals to the program committee chair by **January 31, 2002**.

2002 Program Committee:

Jeremy Mouat, 2002 Program Chair
Associate Professor, History
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta
T9S 3A3 CANADA
Jeremym@athabascau.ca

Carlos Schwantes

Bob Weldin

**Preliminary Arrangements
MHA 13th Annual Meeting
Wallace, Idaho
June 20-23, 2002**

Historic Wallace, Idaho:

Population is less than a thousand, but the business district is about the same as it was when the mines were booming and there were four times as many residents. Virtually all services and city attractions are less than ten blocks from the convention center. Wallace is situated in a deep canyon at an elevation of 2,738 feet. It is best to come prepared for a wide variation in temperatures. Summers are mild, with daytime reaching 75 to 85 degrees and nights dropping to 40 to 50 degrees.

Transportation:

Nearly all commercial flights arrive and depart from Spokane International Airport, about 85 miles west of Wallace. Most major car rentals agencies are located in the terminal. There is no commercial shuttle service from Spokane International to Wallace but, if there is enough interest we might arrange one. Highway transportation is simple because Interstate 90 goes through the center of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Take Idaho Exit 61; the Wallace Inn Convention Center and Chamber of Commerce Information Center are both visible from the interchange. The Greyhound bus stop at Wallace is ten blocks from the Wallace Inn, so let us know ahead of time if your going to need a lift (no charge).

Lodging:

The Wallace Inn will be the center for most convention activities. They have reserved some rooms for MHA members but because another event, scheduled at the same time, they cannot accommodate all of us. First come, first served, (208) 752-1252. The Stardust motel is modern and economical and only five blocks away, (208) 752-1213. The Brook's Hotel, (208) 556-1571, is only six blocks away and it too is economical with recently remodeled rooms (some with kitchens). Seven blocks from the convention headquarters is the Ryan Hotel, (208) 753-6001. It is your most economical choice, the rooms are quite nice and all but three have private bath or shower. If you prefer a Bed & Breakfast, check out the 100 year old Beale House, (208) 752-7151. It is about four blocks from the Wallace Inn. There are other motels at Kellogg (10 miles west on I-90) if you have transportation.

Field Trips (Preliminary Planning):

Thursday, June 20---7AM - 11AM Underground Tour of a Working Silver Mine

Sunday, June 23---Surface Tours, either A or B (\$25 each) Tour A: Including Airport Shuttle (if a minimum of 15 people sign up). Depart Wallace Inn with your luggage. Burke Canyon loop and back to Wallace. To the Murray gold district, old cemetery, Sprag Pole Museum and historical presentation. To the discovery location and Dream Gulch. To Eagle and Wyatt Earp's Saloon site. No host lunch at the Snake Pit (Enaville Resort). To the historic Cataldo Mission. Arrive at Spokane International Airport about 3:00 PM.

Tour B: To Mullan & Shoshone Park. Loop tour of Burke Canyon. To the Galena Mine. To Sunshine Mine Memorial and Sunshine Mine. To Wardner Museum and Bunker Hill Main Office. Loop tour of the Pine Creek District. To the Snake Pit (Enaville Resort) for no host lunch. To Eagle City and Wyatt Earp Saloon site and Dream Gulch. To Murray, Sprag Pole Museum, cemetery. Back to Wallace over Kings Pass and Dobson Pass.

Questions and Suggestions:

Contact the co-chairmen of arrangements:

John Amonson, P.O. Box 469, Wallace, ID. 83873, (208) 556-1592

Bob Weldin, W. 3015 Weile, Spokane, WA. 99208, (509) 327-2897. minersq@earthlink.net (that is a q not a g)

Help Requested

Carl Barna of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is looking for information about the life and career of George Mitchell. Mitchell was a mine and smelter man in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century who became a notorious mine promoter. He worked in Butte, owned mines in Cananea, Mexico, and had one of his greatest promotional scams at Swansea, Arizona, ca 1907-10. He received a patent for a water jacketed furnace that he devised around 1900. Contact Carl at Carl_Barna@CO.BLM.GOV if you have any information to share.

Mark Wyman is trying to locate any historical society or archive that may have papers of any of the private detective agencies that were so active in the West from 1880 into the 20th Century. He can be contacted at wdwyman@ilstu.edu.

Meeting Notes

NAMHO 2002

The Application of Water Power in Mining, will be held July 5-8, 2002, at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. This conference, hosted by the Welsh Mines Society, will include a full weekend conference including mine and field trips. For more information contact conference secretary - John Hine, the Grottage, 2 Cullis Lane, Mile End COLEFORD, Glos. GL16 7QF.

Death Valley Conference

The 6th Conference on Death Valley History and Prehistory will be held February 7-10, 2002 at the Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, California. The purpose of the conference is to encourage original research on the human history and prehistory of the Death Valley area. For more information contact Jean Johnson, 4916 Westridge Rd., Bishop, Ca 93514, email: dvhist-conf@qnet.com.

Colorado History Group

The Colorado History Group will hold its Spring Rendezvous on Saturday, April 27, 2002 in Idaho Springs. Meet at the Heritage Museum & Visitor's Center, 2300 Miner St. between 9-9:30 a.m. for a walking tour with Mary Jane Loevlie.

Panel Discussions will include:

- Dan Abbott of the Idaho Springs Historical Society, "Railroading Idaho Springs"
- Dawn Bunyak, CU-Denver, "Women in Mining"
- Eric Twitty, Boulder author, "George A. Jackson"
- Jay Fell, CU-Boulder, "Prof. Hill's Clear Creek Works"
- Lysa Wegman-French, National Park Service, "Preserving Clear Creek Mining Towns"
- Marjorie Bell, "Idaho Springians"

Tours of the Argo, Edgar and Phoenix Mines, and the Idaho Springs Cemetery will be held. A dinner at the Elks Lodge will include a keynote presentation by Prof. Duane A. Smith, Fort Lewis College: "Of Cats, Blasting Caps & the Idaho Diggings".

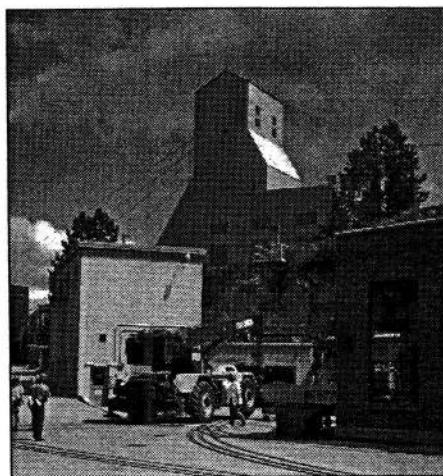
Send \$50 for non-students/ \$30 students for brunch, dinner, and all tours. Make checks out to "Colorado History Group" & mail them to 1245 Newport St., Denver, CO 80220.

American Mining Hall of Fame

On December 1, 2001, the Mining Foundation of the Southwest held its 19th Annual American Mining Hall of Fame Awards Banquet in Tucson, Arizona. Each year, one living inductee and up to 2 honorees from mining history are chosen by the Hall of Fame Committee and the Board of Governors for their outstanding contributions to the mining industry.

The Foundation, which has published 3 volumes of the *History of Mining in Arizona*, began the American Mining Hall of Fame in 1983 to honor significant contributions to the industry and profession.

News



Yates Shaft, MHA Meeting 1993

Homestake Mine Closes

In September 2000, the Homestake Mining Company announced that its namesake mine in Lead, South Dakota would close by December 31, 2001 after 125 years of continuous gold production. The 16 -month mine-out plan allowed the mining and milling of all developed ore and the recovery of a final 240,000 ounces of gold.

But if scientists, historians and government officials are successful, the Homestake Mine will not simply fade away after its operations cease. The extensive mine workings may enjoy future life as a historical attraction and a high-tech scientific research center.

South Dakota Senator Tom Daschle has asked the National Park Service to evaluate options for preserving the site and interpreting its unique history for future generations. Senator Daschle also hopes to turn the Homestake into a world-class scientific research facility to study neutrinos (solar-generated nuclear particles that are electrically neutral and have negligible mass).

During its remarkably long life, the Homestake produced a phenomenal 40 million troy ounces of gold, building a legacy of longevity and production that no other American mine has ever ap-

proached. Whatever its future, the Homestake will always be remembered first and foremost as America's greatest gold mine.

Museum Notes



Caledonia Boardinghouse, Sept. 2001.

This past summer, work began in Silverton, Colorado on a new mining museum for the **San Juan County Historical Society**. For years, the Society has needed a home for its large collection of mining artifacts, probably one of the largest in Colorado. The front section of the new museum will consist of the Caledonia boardinghouse which was dismantled and moved to Silverton from its location in Minnie Gulch. The boardinghouse, which was donated to the Society, was in danger of being destroyed by the crush of rocks against its side and the ravages of San Juan winters. The boardinghouse served the Caledonia mine which was discovered in 1872.

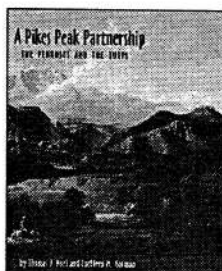
A new exhibit of gold was recently installed in the Gold Rush Room at **The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum**, Leadville, Colorado in May. In the case are 27 superb gold specimens from currently and historically important gold mining districts in Colorado, California, Nevada, Alaska, Canada, Venezuela, Chile, Romania and Siberia. The display is on loan from Brian and Kathryn Lees, proprietors of The Collector's Edge Minerals, Inc. of Golden, Colorado.

A 33,000-pound copper boulder, measuring 18 x 8 feet will become the centerpiece at the new home of Michigan

Tech's **Seaman Mineral Museum**, Houghton, Michigan which is expected to be built in 2004 at the site of the Quincy Mine. The boulder was recovered from Lake Superior this past July with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

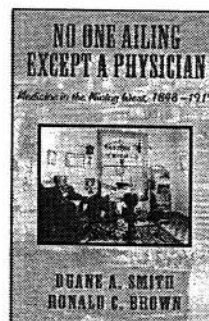
Ground was broken this September for the new **Colorado School of Mines Mineral Museum**, Golden, Colorado. This museum started out as a teaching collection assembled by Arthur Lakes in the early 1870s, and is now noted for its worldwide collection of minerals, and mining artifacts as well as exhibits on mining history and a reconstructed turn-of-the-century gold mine. The new museum should be up and running by January 2003.

Book Notes



A Pikes Peak Partnership, the Penroses and the Tutts, by Thomas J. Noel; and Cathleen M. Norman, 2001, University Press of Colorado, Send orders to

4100 28th Ave. N.W., Norman, OK 73069-8218, \$34.95 Hardcover, \$4.00 shipping and handling, 1-800-627-7377, www.upcolorado.com. With his fortune made during the Cripple Creek gold rush and subsequent commercial and industrial ventures, Spencer Penrose, the maverick son of a wealthy Philadelphia clan, was the most prominent playboy in the Pikes Peak region. A partnership with his old Philadelphia chum, Charles L. Tutt, and marriage to a Detroit grande dame, Julie Villiers, ultimately converted this playboy into Colorado's premier philanthropist. *A Pikes Peak Partnership* tells the incredible tale of the two families who transformed Colorado Springs and its environs into a tourist haven.



No One Ailing Except a Physician, Duane A. Smith and Ronald C. Brown, 2001, University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 206C, Boulder, CO 80303, Cloth \$50.00, \$4.50

shipping and handling. 1-800-627-7377, www.upcolorado.com. In this important new contribution to both mining and medical history, both authors present a detailed analysis of the ailments that confronted the miners and the methods with which they and their doctors attempted to "cure" them. The occupational hazards of mining, with its strenuous labor and exposure to the elements, contributed to the miners' vulnerability to disease and injury, which was further worsened by the typical miner's refusal to heed prevailing medical wisdom and common sense, often leading to easily preventable diseases such as scurvy.



Anaconda, Labor, Community, and Culture in Montana's Smelter City, Laurie Mercier, 2001, University of Illinois Press, 1325 South Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820, 1-800-545-4703

(US only), www.press.uillinois.edu, paper \$24.95, cloth \$49.95, \$3.50 postage. In this book, Laurie Mercier examines the tenacity of union loyalty and communal values within the confines of a one-industry town: Anaconda, Montana, home to the world's largest smelter and the namesake of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Depicting the vibrant life of the smelter city at full steam, *Anaconda* offers important insights about the changing nature of working class culture and the real potential for collective action.

Drill Bits



The October 2001 issue of *Mining Engineering* contains an article on the expansion of operations at the **Cresson mine** in Victor, Colorado. Although the article focuses primarily on current operations, there is also a brief discussion of the history of the Cripple Creek District and its importance as a gold-producing area. Page 28 of the article features a photograph of Ed Hunter talking to Cresson visitors about ore sorting.

On the way to Wallace next year, MHAers might want to drive the **Custer Motorway Adventure Road** through the historic Yankee Fork Mining District. The Drive is located in

central Idaho between the towns of Challis and Sunbeam. Among the sights on this drive are the General Custer Mill site, Custer City, and the Yankee Fork gold dredge. For more information contact the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 1086, Challis, ID 83226

The **Stephen H. Hart Research Library** will soon undergo a major renovation. The library is located at the Colorado History Museum at 13th and Broadway in downtown Denver. Construction may begin as early as spring 2002, making certain collections unavailable. Researchers and writers are encouraged to visit the library for access to photographs, maps, books and manuscripts prior to January 2002. Every effort is being made by the staff to accommodate patrons before and during this project.

If researchers anticipate needing access to specific materials throughout 2002 and into early 2003, they should contact the library at library@chs.state.co.us; by telephone (303)866-2305, or by a letter addressed to Stephen H. Hart Library, Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203.

The **Sterling Hill Mining Museum** in Ogdensburg, New Jersey was used recently used as a movie set for the new film *Zoolander*, starring Ben Stiller. A number of scenes in the movie were shot at the mine, and some of the museum's staff were used as extras. Several interior areas of the mine were sprayed black to simulate a coal mine.



2002 DUES ARE DUE

Please send your membership renewal check to remain on the active list of the Mining History Association. If you have already paid your dues for 2002 please ignore this notice. The mailing label on this issue of the newsletter should reflect the year which you have paid.

Fill out the information below and mail your check to Mining History Association, P.O. Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215.

☐ General Membership \$25

☐ Sustaining Membership \$50

☐ International Membership \$35

☐ Patron Membership \$100

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____ Email _____

Check if address, telephone, and email listing not for publication ☐ Check if any information above is new ☐



Mining History Association

Post Office Box 150300
Denver, Colorado 80215

www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm

Membership in the Mining History Association is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$25 (\$35 international). Membership includes the *Mining History News* quarterly newsletter and the *Mining History Journal*. As in the past, MHA will host an annual conference, which includes tours, symposiums, and social events.

Officers 2001

Richard Francaviglia, President
Jeremy Mouat, Vice-President
Robert L. Spude, Secretary
James Fell, Treasurer

Council

Richard Graeme, Past President
Charles Hughes, 1999-2001
Erik Nordberg, 1999-2001
Glen Cook, 2000-2002
Homer Milford, 2000-2002
Eleanor Swent, 2001-2003
Chris Huggard, 2001-2003

Membership Chair

Robert Sorgenfrei

Denver Office Coordinator

Lysa Wegman-French

PLAN TO ATTEND

**Thirteenth Annual
MHA Meeting**



Wallace, Idaho
June 20 -23, 2002

Mining History News

Published quarterly

Editors

Mark and Karen Vendl
1136 Kemman Ave.
LaGrange Park, IL 60526
mkvendl@earthlink.net

Deadline for submissions to the next
newsletter is **March 1, 2002.**

Mining History Association

Post Office Box 150300
Denver, Colorado 80215

FIRST CLASS MAIL