

Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

June, 2002



Volume 13, Number 2

President's Column

The conference this year in the Coeur d'Alenes will be the second time that the Mining History Association has met in Idaho. Ten years ago, I drove down to Boise from British Columbia in order to attend that earlier conference. On the way home, I remember thinking that I ought to stop and explore the northern part of Idaho. But I was in a rush to return to the archives to complete research on a project, and so I never made it east along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. I am delighted that this year I'll finally get a chance to make that trip into the Coeur d'Alenes, to see a place that I've read about for many years.

The strip that runs from Kellogg and the Bunker Hill east to Wallace, and then up to Burke, is rich in mining history. Like so many other places where we've met, the Coeur d'Alenes offers us diverse perspectives on mining. John Fahey, in particular, has written a number of books that deal with the region's business, social and labor history. More recently, Katherine Aiken—who'll be our banquet speaker Friday night in Wallace—has produced a series of articles on the dominant company of the region, "Uncle Bunker", and the latest *Mining History Journal* includes Keith Long's article on tailings and litigation in the Coeur d'Alenes. Anthony Lukas's blockbuster **Big Trouble** probably reached the largest audience of any of the numerous publications about the region.

There's no question of the significance of the Coeur d'Alenes. From the start, a number of famous mining folk were drawn there. John Hays Hammond, for example, was involved in the early days of the Bunker Hill, and he recruited Fred Bradley in the early 1890s to manage the company. Bradley would serve as president from 1897 until he died in 1933, although he was also busy with ventures in Alaska, Nevada, California, and other places; one leading journalist described him in 1916 as one of the four "generals" of the mining engineering profession (along with Hammond, Hoover, and Jackling). Speaking of leading journalists: T. A. Rickard, a close associate of Bradley's, also wrote extensively about Bunker Hill.

The clashes between labor and management captured the most attention, although in retrospect the first major dispute in 1892 was relatively minor compared to the events of 1899, when the Bunker Hill concentrator was blown up. In the wake of that explosion, many union miners were either blacklisted or thrown into a bullpen. As Vernon Jensen concluded in *Heritage of Conflict*, "Conflict bears bitter seeds which carry far." Six years later, Frank Steunenberg, Idaho's Governor during the 1899 strike, was murdered, leading to the famous trial of Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone described in Lukas's book.

These events in Idaho had a considerable impact on Canada, the focus of my own research. Men who had helped to develop the Coeur d'Alenes quickly

realised the potential of neighboring southeast British Columbia, one reason why the majority of the Kootenay's leading mines were opened up by American entrepreneurs in the late 1880s and early 1890s. The labor troubles in Idaho also influenced labor relations in the mining towns of British Columbia. When the first major strike began in the Kootenays, shortly after the 1899 strike in Idaho, mine owners were quick to warn the government of possible anarchy, pointing to events in the Coeur d'Alenes. The government hired a Pinkerton agent to gauge the threat of violence in the Kootenays, although the agent concluded that his errand had been pointless and that additional security was unnecessary. It seems to have been an accurate analysis: little or no violence accompanied the bitter strikes in the Kootenays, despite the dire predictions of mine managers.

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The most lasting legacy of the long history of mining in the Coeur d'Alenes appears to be its environmental impact. As Keith Long explained in his article in last year's *Mining History Journal*, it might all be water under the bridge but the tailings that accompanied that water is still creating problems. Regulation and lawsuits, the tangles of federal and state jurisdictions, and the ability of today's companies to pay for yesterday's polluters have combined to create an incredibly complex problem. Perhaps the one bright side is that there will likely be plenty of challenging work for future mining historians.

The program for the Wallace conference includes a number of presentations that will explore the mining history of Shoshone County. It promises to be a fascinating couple of days and I am looking forward to it very much.

Jeremy Mouat

Organization Notes

2002 Dues Are Due

Please check the mailing label on this issue. Your name should be followed by "2002" if you are up to date. If not, please send your renewal check for \$25 (\$35 international) to remain on the active list of MHA. If you have already paid your 2002 dues, but this is not reflected on your label, please contact Robert Sorgenfrei at the address below.

Membership Directory

The new 2002 membership directory should be in the mail by the time you receive this newsletter. If you have not received it by the end of July, or you have address corrections, please contact Robert Sorgenfrei, Membership Chairman, Mining History Association, Post Office Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215, or email: Rsorgenf@mines.edu.

Western History Association

The Mining History Association will hold its annual breakfast during the 42nd Annual Western History Association Conference, at 7:00 am, October 17, 2002 at the Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

MHA Board Meeting

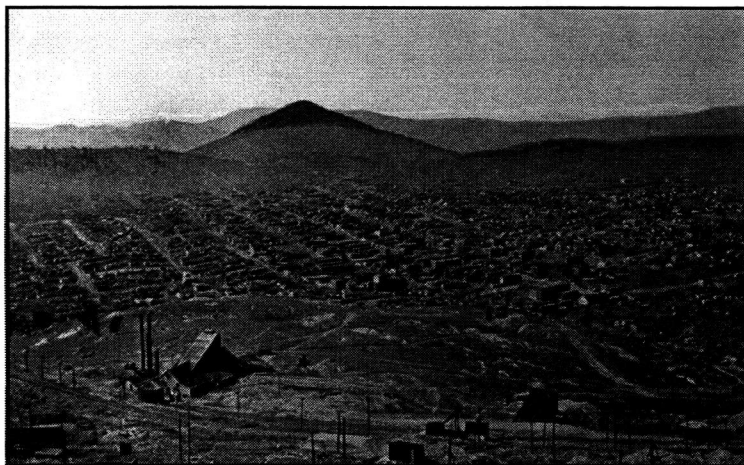
The MHA Board meeting was held at 2 pm on Friday, June 21 at the Best Western Inn, Wallace, Idaho. Jay Fell, Treasurer, reported that the Association's finances are in good shape, and that approximately \$18,000 will be in the treasury after the Wallace meeting. Newsletter editors Mark and Karen Vendl reported that annual newsletter costs will be less than expected, around \$1,600. An OK was given to investigate ways to upgrade future newsletters. The Board asked Robert Sorgenfrei to print and distribute an updated membership list to all MHA members. The board approved a proposal put forth by Duane Smith regarding the establishment of the Clark C. Spence Award for the outstanding mining history book. The award will be given every other year. If you would like to contribute to the fund for this award, please send a check to the MHA Denver mailing address, stating that it is for the Clark C. Spence Award. More information on this award is forthcoming. Mark Vendl was appointed Secretary of

MHA to replace Bob Spude.

Cripple Creek/Victor, Colorado will be the site of the 2003 MHA Annual Meeting. Ed Hunter will head the local planning committee for the meeting, which will be held June 5-8. Eric Clements offered Southeast Missouri (lead mining district) as a site for the 2004 meeting, and the Board agreed that he should submit a formal proposal. The Board meeting was adjourned in time for the 4 pm Business meeting at the Wallace Elks Club.

Cripple Creek/Victor, June 5-8, 2003

The Cripple Creek/Victor District, Colorado, "The World's Greatest Gold Camp", will be the location of the 14th Annual Meeting of the Mining History Association, June 5-8, 2003. Most events will occur in the City of Cripple Creek. Possible field trips include tours of the district, the current operations at the Cresson mine, and the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. For those who want to get a head start on reading about this area, two books are highly recommended: Marshall Sprague's *Money Mountain: The Story of Cripple Creek Gold*, and Frank Water's *Midas of the Rockies*, a biography of Winfield Scott Stratton. On the internet, log on to the Southern Teller County Focus Group's site at: www.wbb-xpress.com/stcfg.htm. For accommodations, check out: www.cripple-creek.co.us.



Cripple Creek, Colorado, July 1, 1904

CALL FOR PAPERS



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

CRIPPLE CREEK/VICTOR, COLORADO
JUNE 5-8, 2003

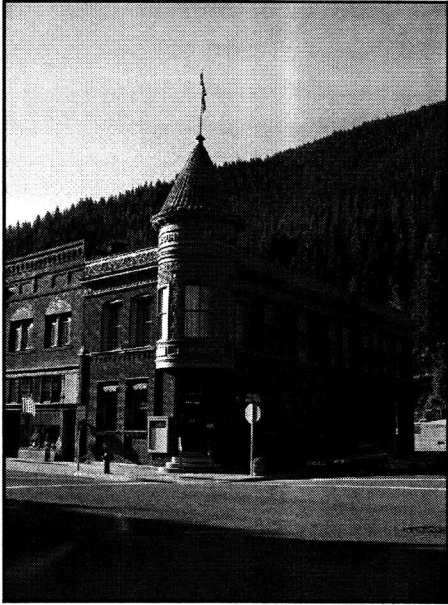
The program committee for the Cripple Creek/Victor meeting of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (including chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions normally include three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no temporal or 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 **December 31, 2002**.

2003 Program Chair:

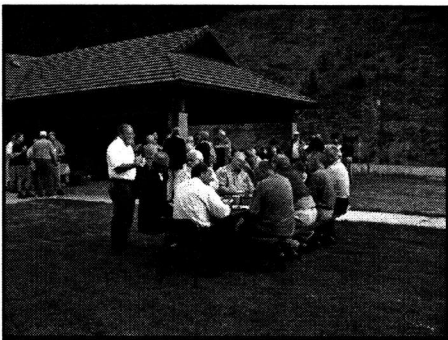
Duane Smith
288 SW Center
Fort Lewis College
Durango, CO 81301

Wallace MHA Meeting



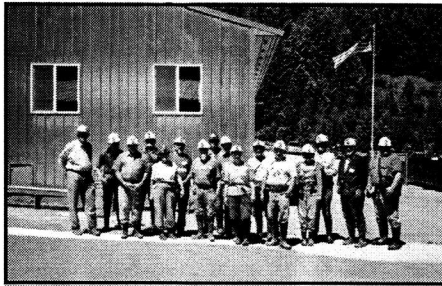
Downtown Wallace, Idaho

As attendees discovered, Wallace, Idaho and the fabulous Coeur d'Alene district is a grand place for our annual MHA meeting. The approximately 110 people who registered for the event were treated to a great meeting. Quaint shops, friendly people, and lots of mining history in the area made everyone's stay special. Tours of the Wallace District Mining Museum and the town itself were also in the agenda. The winning combination of fascinating talks and great field trips made this meeting one to remember.

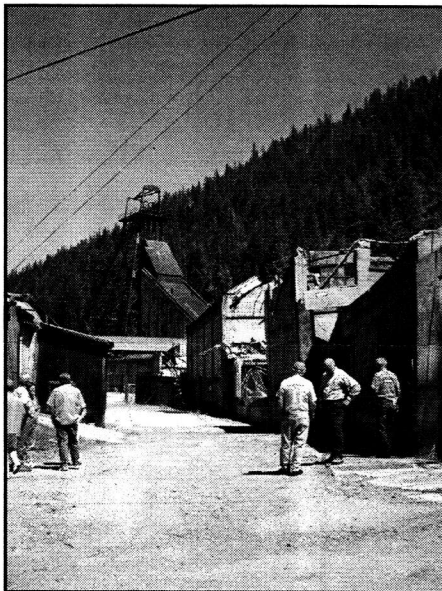


Reception at Wallace Visitor Center

Underground tours at the Lucky Friday and Galena mines were interesting (if a little hot and dirty). This was followed by a bus tour of Burke Canyon, which included a stop at the Hecla mine.



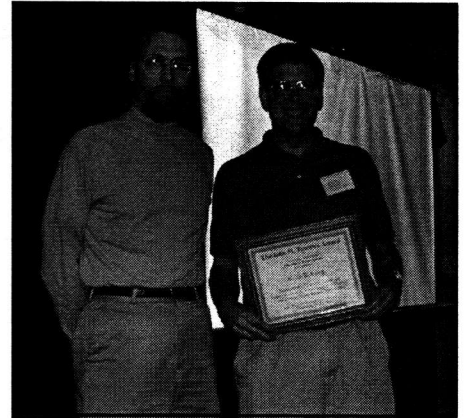
Tour group at the Galena mine.



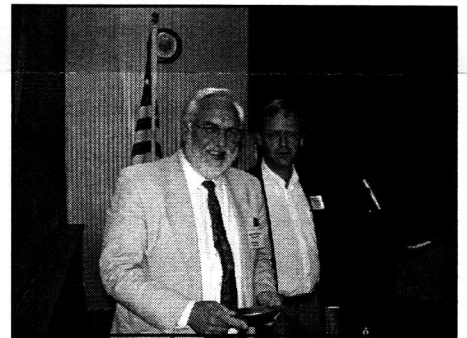
Hecla mine, Burke, Idaho

The awards banquet, which was held Friday night at the Elks Club in Wallace, was highlighted by keynote speaker Katherine Aiken, who gave a presentation on the Bunker Hill mine. Award recipients included Keith Long, who received the John Townley Award for best article in the 2001 Journal. His article is entitled: "Tailings Under the Bridge: Causes and Consequences of River Disposal of Tailings, Coeur d'Alene Mining Region, 1886-1968". The Rodman Paul Award for 2002 went to Roger Burt. An Honorary Award of Appreciation was presented

to Bob Spude by Richard Francaviglia, for his extra-long service as Secretary of MHA. The award consisted of eleven Lower Saxony mining buttons with crossed hammers, which Homer Milford purchased in Germany and donated to the cause. Congratulations to all the award winners.



Keith Long (right) receiving the Townley Award from Eric Clements.

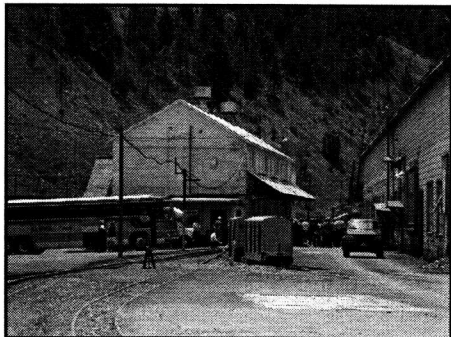


Roger Burt (left) receiving the Rodman Paul Award from President Jeremy Mouat.

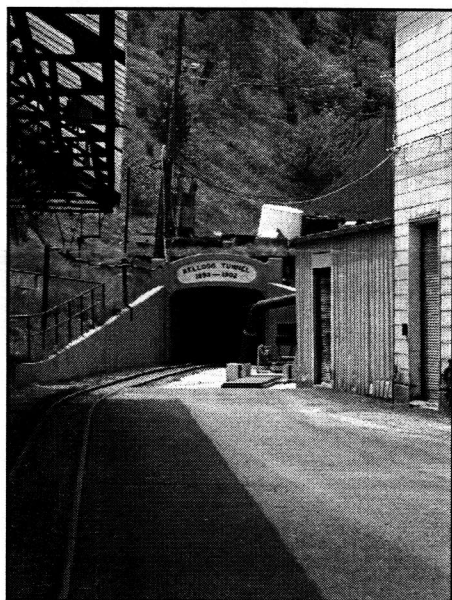


Bob Spude (left) receiving Award from Richard Francaviglia.

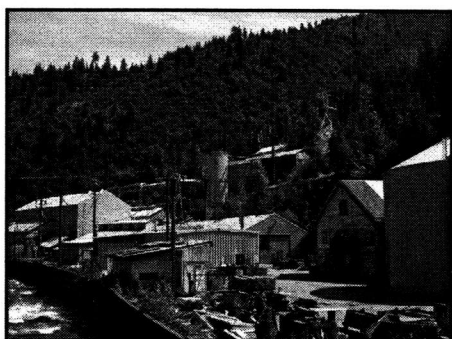
The Sunday field trip included stops at the Gold Hunter, Lucky Friday, Galena, Bunker Hill (Kellogg Tunnel), and Sunshine mines, the towns of Wardner and Murray, and lunch at the Snake Pit.



The Bunker Hill mine



The Kellogg Tunnel



The Sunshine mine



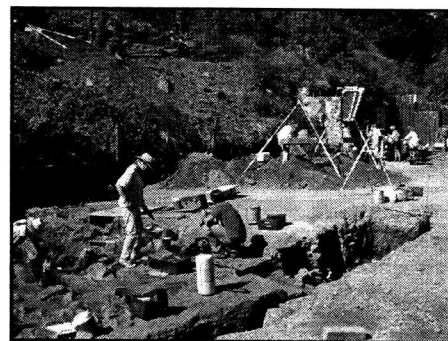
Statue commemorating the Sunshine mine fire.

MHA owes a debt of gratitude to the local committee who put in long hours to make the meeting a success. At the top of the list are John Amonson and Bob and Lola Weldin, who put the entire meeting together. Other individuals who assisted include Bill Calhoun, Geri Bair, Sue Halley, Rick Shaffer, Dick Caron, Jim See, Ivan Linscott, Sharon Firpick, Mary Faraca, Bob Hopper, and Fred Brackenbush. Bob Chavez and his staff at the Wallace Elks Club worked hard to feed and accommodate a near-capacity crowd.

The committee of Jeremy Mouat, Carlos Swantes, and Bob Weldin organized a great program. Mike Dexter and Guy Sande at the Lucky Friday mine, and Harry Cougher, Joe Luchini, Frank Maciosek, and Guy Sande at the Galena mine, put forth a great deal of effort to make the underground tours happen. Thanks to all.

Archeology

During the summer of 2002, the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission is conducting an archeological dig in the old Chinatown area on lower Main Street in Deadwood, South Da-

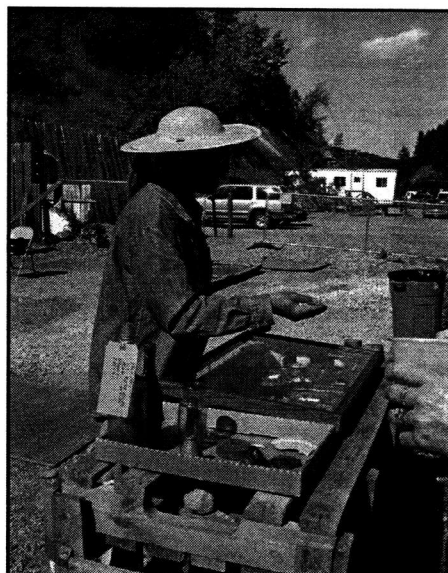


Archeological dig in downtown Deadwood.

kota. Chinese artifacts were first uncovered there during a city excavation in 2001. The artifacts recovered will be prepared for eventual exhibition.

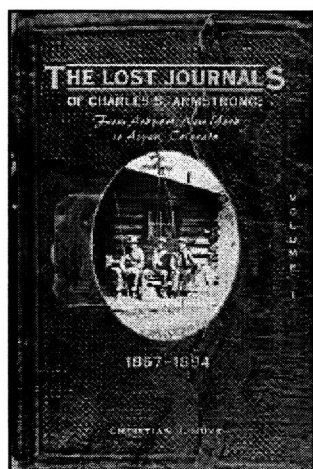
Chinese began to arrive in Deadwood shortly after the gold rush in 1876, and began leaving in the 1900s. Chinese laborers worked placer deposits in and around Deadwood Gulch; the Chinese also owned many businesses such as laundries, restaurants and grocery stores.

For more information, contact the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, Deadwood City Hall, 108 Sherman Street, Deadwood, SD 57732; phone 605/578-2082; email jim@cityofdeadwood.com.



Latest finds are shown to the interested public.

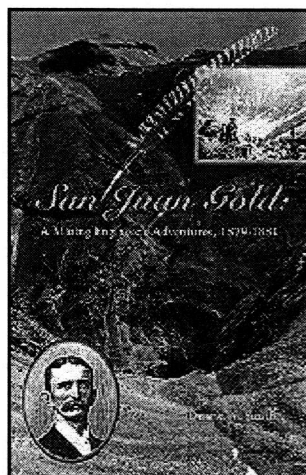
Book Notes



The Lost Journals of Charles S. Armstrong, by Christian J. Buys, 2002, 272 pages, 87 illustrations, softbound, Western Reflections Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1647, Montrose, Colorado 81402-1647, 800-993-4490, www.westernreflections.pub.com, email westref@montrose.net, \$16.95, shipping free. The newly-discovered journals of Charles Armstrong offer the reader a rare opportunity to glimpse the never-before-revealed details of the daily life of an ordinary man in an extraordinary place and time. Armstrong first went to Denver, then Leadville and finally ended up visiting Aspen soon after it was founded. It was here that Armstrong stayed, built a cabin, searched for valuable minerals, worked as a surveyor, fished, trapped, and enjoyed an active social life for a prospector. Nothing like his journals, which span over five decades of his life, has been seen in Colorado mining history.

Coal Miner's Holiday, by Kiki DeLancey, 2002, 240 pages, paper, Sarabande Books, 2234 Dundee Road, Suite 200, Louisville, KY 40205, 502-458-4028, www.SarabandeBooks.org, \$13.95, shipping \$3.50. In the pages of *Coal Miner's Holiday* (mining jargon for

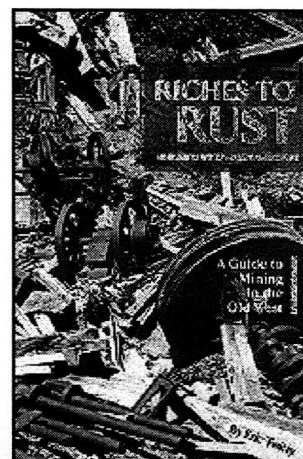
forced layoff), DeLancey introduces us to the culture and characters of coal-mining towns bordering the Ohio River. This fictional account tells the stories of unseen American immigrants—Polish, Greek, Irish, and others—who worked in the coal mines of the Midwest.



San Juan Gold: A Mining Engineer's Adventures, 1879-1881, by Duane A. Smith, 2002, 144 pages, 19 illustrations, softbound, Western Reflections Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1647, Montrose, Colorado 81402-1647, 800-993-4490, www.westernreflections.pub.com, email westref@montrose.net, \$12.95, shipping free. It is always especially exciting when newly-discovered material is made available on the Old West; but well-written letters of Eben Olcott also reveal a very different side of the rough and rowdy mining frontier that dominated Colorado in the 1880s. *San Juan Gold* illuminates the details of daily life during that age from the perspective of an educated, successful mining engineer.

Olcott's adventures are amplified by the observations of Duane Smith who helps the reader to understand the historical context within which Olcott was working. Much of Olcott's time was spent at the famous Ute-Ulay mine and

mill near Lake City as well as the North Star mine, which was located high above the town of Silverton. As a mining engineer, Olcott was engaged not only to help with the technical aspects of mining, but also the promotion of stock in the mines. He also examined mines for wealthy Eastern investors who were thinking of investing in the rich Colorado silver mines.



Riches to Rust, A Guide to Mining in the Old West, by Eric Twitty, 2002, 390 pages, over 250 illustrations, softbound, Western Reflections Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1647, Montrose, Colorado 81402-1647, 800-993-4490, www.westernreflections.pub.com, email westref@montrose.net, \$19.95, shipping free. Eric Twitty's new book can be used as a field guide for exploring the many old mine sites across the West and understanding the relics strewn around an abandoned mine, or it can be useful in understanding the processes involved in mining in the nineteenth century in the United States. *Riches to Rust* includes chapters on mine development and organization as well as details on prospecting, mining, milling, and transporting the ore. It also traces the evolution of mining technology from its crudest forms, to the changes due to the discovery of electricity, to the times when an exten-

sive engineering structure was built around a potential mine. The extensive appendices and hundreds of photographs and illustrations of the book will allow the reader to identify any mining artifact that might be discovered in the backcountry of the West.

The Glory Days in Goldfield Nevada, by Sally Zanjani, 2002, 176 pages, 167 b/w photos, 16 illustrations, 1 map, cloth, University of Nevada Press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557-0076, 1-877-NVBOOKS, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu, \$31.95, shipping \$4.50. Goldfield, Nevada was one of the West's last mining boomtowns, centered on a fabulously rich gold deposit discovered in 1902 and exhausted by 1920. In this book, Sally Zanjani tells the colorful history of the town, enhancing her story with the personal accounts of many of its residents. Today's Goldfield is a mere shadow of its halcyon self, but Zanjani's engaging recounting of its story brings this last western gold-rush town to life again as the town celebrates the centennial of its founding.

The Ballad of Baby Doe, by Duane A. Smith with John Moriarty, 2002, 128 pages, 36 b/w photographs, University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 206C, Boulder, CO 80303, 1-800-627-7377, www.upcolorado.com, \$35.00 hardcover, \$14.95 softcover, \$4.50 shipping and handling. First produced at the Central City Opera House in 1956, "The Ballad of Baby Doe" is now widely considered a classic and is the second-most-produced American opera. In *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, Duane Smith tells the tale of the complicated birth of the most American of operas. Based on the true story, this opera highlights the courtship and marriage of silver millionaire Horace Tabor, to the sought-after beauty, Baby Doe. Smith sketches the details surrounding the affair: from gold fever, silver devalua-

tion, and the Populist movement in Colorado to the melodrama of gossiped rumors and the couple's undying quest to meet destiny.

High Altitude Energy, A History of Fossil Fuels in Colorado, by Lee Scamhorn, 2002, 232 pages, 15 b/w photographs, 10 line drawings, 5 maps, 3 tables, hardcover, University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 206C, Boulder, CO 80303, 1-800-627-7377, www.upcolorado.com, \$27.50, \$4.50 shipping and handling. *High Altitude Energy* is a timely, articulate history of coal, coke, oil, gas, and oil shale extraction and production in Colorado. Scamhorn examines the origin, evolution, and aspects of the social and economic impact of these industries in Colorado. He treats each of the fuel sources separately, from their discoveries and initial production in the nineteenth century, to the energy crisis of the 1970s, through the 1980s, and up to the present energy concerns.

This new book is part of the "Mining the American West" series edited by Duane Smith, Robert Trennert, and Liping Zhu. Defined broadly, the series will explore the genesis and varied history of mining, mines, districts, mining communities, technologies, and people. The range of the series is not limited to mining for precious metals, but all projects will deal in a substantial way with the history of mining in the American West. For more information regarding the submission of a manuscript, visit the University Press of Colorado at www.upcolorado.com.

Staking a Claim in History, The Evolution of Homestake Mining Company, 2001, 215 pages, illustrated, glossary, index, Homestake Mining Company, Walnut Creek, California, hardcover. Duane Smith's corporate history of the Homestake Mining Com-

pany can only be purchased by contacting Melanie Tollefson, Homestake Visitor Center, 160 W. Main St., Box 887, Lead, South Dakota, 57754-0887, Toll Free 1-888-701-0164, 605-584-3110, Fax 605-584-2522, email: hvc@mato.com. Cost for the book is \$29.95 plus \$6.50. South Dakota residents should include 7% sales tax.

Drill Bits



The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Leadville, Colorado, has announced a gift of \$100,000 from Ralph L. Hennebach in support of its efforts to renovate and develop the East Wing portion of its facility in Leadville. The funds put the Mining Museum half-way toward the project's total goal of \$200,000 for creating a dramatic location for large interactive displays and exhibits, possibly through an affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution.

The 6th International Mining History Congress will be held September 26-29, 2002 in Akabira Hokkaido, Japan. The goal of the International Mining History Congress has always been to gather specialists from private, government, and academic sectors involved in mining history to present and discuss their latest research. A wide range of topics will be discussed, including problems related to the social and economic history of mining development in different countries and regions. The official languages of the Congress will be English and Japanese. Those wishing to present research papers at the Congress are requested to prepare an abstract, and complete the registration procedures no later than November 30, 2002, on the website of the Congress (<http://www.imhc2003.com>).





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

Jeremy Mouat, President
Ed Hunter, Vice-President
Mark Vendl, Secretary
James Fell, Treasurer

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Homer Milford, 2000-2002
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