

Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

December, 2002



Volume 13, Number 4

President's Column

New prospects in mining history

When most people in North America - especially those in the West - think of mining history, the gold rush is often one of the first things to come to mind. One reason for this is simply the number of books commemorating the event. Rod Paul's *California Gold* appeared in 1947, anticipating the centenary of the rush, while more recently the 150th anniversary produced a shelfful of excellent studies.

But there is a good deal more to mining history than the excitement stimulated by that famous discovery at Sutter's Mill, as historians of earlier gold mining in North Carolina and Georgia would be quick to point out. It's also worth repeating the obvious, that mining history is not only about precious metals or for that matter, only concerned with base and precious metals. Those who attended the Wallace conference will remember Erik Nordberg's intriguing paper on salt mining. Close to where I live in Alberta is another extraordinary mining operation, involving the massive oil sands deposits around Fort McMurray.

It's important that we take a broad and inclusive approach to mining history, to focus not simply on the industry and its ups and downs, but also on its social and environmental impacts, the geopolitical context, and - a topic dear to my own heart these days - the investment and financial operations that sup-

ported the industry. These themes have formed the basis of some fine papers at various MHA conferences, a number of which have subsequently appeared in the *Mining History Journal*. We have been less successful at extending our interests geographically and chronologically, to move beyond the western half of North America and past a general interest in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. My column in the last newsletter touched on globalization; here I want to draw attention to mining's ancient roots in North America.

For thousands of years, Native peoples traded Alaskan, Michigan and Central Arctic copper, as well as obsidian, amber, galena, and other objects of value. Native knowledge of mineral deposits played a role in many subsequent mining developments, a pattern that can be seen in other regions as well. In describing the European "discovery" of copper deposits in the two Rhodesias (now Zambia and Zimbabwe), mining historian A. J. Wilson noted that "most of the big finds of the early years of the present century in both of the Rhodesias were more in the nature of a *rediscovery* of ancient mineral wealth than a sudden stumble on potentially rich resources. . . . The big impact came only when science, industrial machinery and skilled and unskilled manpower combined to enable such resources to be developed profitably despite the constraints of terrain, climate and the enormous distances over which products would need to travel to reach the outside world and still retain the viability of their mining" (Wilson, *The Living Rock: The Story of Metals since Earli-*

est Times and Their Impact on Developing Civilization (Cambridge, 1994), pp. 259-60). Here in North America, although the French made a concerted effort to mine Michigan copper in 1738-39, they were only following the earlier activity of Native miners. Louise Kellogg was perhaps the first historian to describe French mining in any detail, in *The French Régime in Wisconsin and the Northwest* (Madison, 1925), while Susan Martin's recently published *Wonderful Power* (Detroit, 1999) is the definitive study of Native copper mining. There are numerous fascinating links yet to be explored between Native knowledge and subsequent mining by Europeans. For example, the Haida on Canada's Pacific coast allegedly learned of the European preoccupation with gold on a trip to California to trade abalone shell, soon after the gold rush. Alerted to the value of gold as a trading item, their

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own investigations played a part in stimulating the rush to the Fraser River in 1858.

We don't have to prospect far to realise that the world of mining history still holds many riches waiting to be tapped!

Jeremy Mouat

Organization Notes

Western History Association

A group of about thirty MHA members and friends attended the annual MHA Breakfast at the Western History Association meeting held on October 17 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. During the breakfast, Ed Hunter was presented with the Rodman Paul Award for his many years of service to both the MHA, and to historic preservation in the Cripple Creek-Victor district. Congratulations, Ed.

A short board meeting was held after the breakfast with the following attendees: Jeremy Mouat, Duane Smith, Jay Fell, Eric Clements, Lysa Wegman-French, and Ed Hunter. Eric Clements submitted a formal proposal, which

was accepted by the Board, for the 2004 MHA Conference to be held June 10-13, 2004 in the Missouri Lead Belt at Farmington, Missouri.

2003 MHA Conference

Ed and Cherry Hunter have been hard at work finalizing plans for next year's conference to be held in Cripple Creek, Colorado. A preliminary agenda can be found on the next page. Also found in this newsletter is a listing of available accommodations in both Cripple Creek and neighboring Victor, which Cherry Hunter has taken the time to visit and describe. Thanks, Cherry, for all your work.

The welcoming reception at the 2003 MHA conference on Thursday night will host Winfield Scott Stratton, richest millionaire of the Cripple Creek mining district. Mr. Stratton, an itinerant carpenter and part-time prospector, located the Independence mine and sold it to the Venture Corporation of England for \$11,000,000. Stratton, aka Richard Marould, will reminisce on the mining activities in the district with which he was involved.

Richard Marould, an accomplished historian and thespian, in his portrayal of

Stratton, has entertained many audiences with a factual insight into the thinking of this amazing man and his great influence on the Cripple Creek district. Stratton will devote much of his appearance to answering questions from the audience.

MHA Elections

Ron Brown has been elected vice-president for 2003. Duane Smith and Silvia Pettem will be the new board members for the 2003-2005 term. The 2003 nominating committee will consist of Jim Besleme, Keith Long, and Ed Raines. Thanks to all who agreed to run for office, and thanks to last year's nominating committee: Mark Langefeld, Ron Limbaugh and Robert Sorgenfrei for all their hard work.

Call for Papers

Just a reminder that the deadline for submitting written proposals for the 2003 MHA Conference is December 31, 2002. They should be sent to Duane Smith, 288 SW Center, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO 81301. For details: see the June or September, 2002 newsletters or MHA's website: www.mininghistoryassociation.org

Clark C. Spence Award



The Mining History Association is pleased to announce that it is accepting nominations for the first biennial Clark C. Spence Award for the outstanding mining history book. Clark Spence is a pioneer in the study of mining history as well as one of the founding fathers of the Mining History Association. Publishers and authors are encouraged to submit their nominations, plus three copies of the book, by January 31, 2003 to:

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 150300
Denver, CO 80215

MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION
14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CRIPPLE CREEK, COLORADO
June 5-8, 2003
Preliminary Agenda

Wednesday, June 4

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Early Bird Registration - sidewalk outside Cripple Creek Welcome Railroad Car
Self-guided tour of Cripple Creek District museum

Thursday, June 5

8:00 - 10:00 am

MHA Board meeting - Location to be determined

10:00 - 12:00 am

Continued Registration outside Cripple Creek Welcome Railroad Car & self-guided museum tour

Noon - 2:00 pm

Lunch - On your own

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Continued registration outside Cripple Creek Welcome Railroad Car

Pre-conference overview bus tour of District - stops at mine sites, etc.

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Welcoming Reception - Womack Center, Cash bar.

Winfield Scott Stratton as guest speaker.

Friday, June 6

7:00 - 8:00 am

MHA Journal Editorial Board Breakfast Meeting - location to be determined

8:00 - 8:30 am

Continued registration at the Womack Center

Coffee, donuts and juices - catered

8:30 - 10:00 am

Opening and First Session of Talks - Womack Center

10:00 - 10:15 am

Coffee Break - catered

10:15 - 11:50

Second Session of Talks - Womack Center

Noon - 12:50 pm

Lunch w/ speaker from Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Co. on their historic preservation - Parks & Recreation Building

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Tour of Cripple Creek & Victor's Cresson operating surface mine

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Tour of Mollie Kathleen mine - 1000 ft. level

7:00 - 9:30 pm.

Awards Banquet - Parks & Recreation Building, Speaker, to be determined

Saturday, June 7

8:00 - 8:30 am

Coffee, donuts, and juices - catered

8:30 - 10:00 am

Third Session of Talks - Womack Center

10:00 - 10:15 am.

Coffee Break - catered

10:15 - Noon

Fourth Session of Talks - Womack Center

Noon - 2:00 pm.

Presidential Luncheon - Parks & Recreation Building, Ed Hunter, "The Cape Nome Conspiracy - the Right Wing Again?"

2:00 - 3:45 pm.

Fifth Session of Talks - Womack Center

3:45-4:00 pm

Coffee Break - catered

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Annual Business Meeting - Womack Center

5:00 - 7:30 pm

Dinner - On your own

8:00 - 9:00 pm

"Who, What and Where" Contest - location to be determined

Sunday June 8

9:00 - 4:00 pm

Tour to Western Museum of Mining and Industry in Colorado Springs. Lunch included, stamp mill in operation, museum tours, Stratton Archives etc.

Accommodations in Cripple Creek and Victor

(prices subject to change)

Historic Inns

Cripple Creek:

Hospitality House Hotel

Located on edge of town, city shuttle for transportation, 17 rooms, most with private baths, continental breakfast, \$45-\$100, 1-800-500-2513, (719) 689-2513, www.cripple-creek.co.us/hoph.html

Hotel St. Nicholas

A few blocks from downtown Cripple Creek, 15 rooms, private baths, \$70-\$100, Bar downstairs, 1-888-786-4257, (719) 689-0856, www.cripple-creek.co.us/stnick.html

Victor:

Victor Hotel

Downtown Victor, 20 rooms, private baths, restaurant, handicap accessible, birdcage elevator, \$79-\$89, (719)689-3553, FAX (719)689-4197

The Olympia Hotel

Downtown Victor, 8 rooms, share bath, smoke free, \$35-\$40 breakfast included, (214) 352-4991(until May), (719) 689-3110, or www.olympiahotelbed-breakfast.com

Bed and Breakfasts

Cripple Creek:

Last Dollar Inn

Downtown Cripple Creek, 6 rooms, private baths, ~\$60-\$120, call for rates 1-888-429-6700, (719) 689-9113, www.cripple-creek.co.us/lastdinn.html

Victorian Lady of Cripple Creek

Downtown Cripple Creek, 4 rooms, private baths, call for rates, (719)689-2143, www.vlocc.com

Cherub House Bed & Breakfast

A few blocks from downtown, 4

rooms, private baths \$79-\$99, (719) 689-0526

Angel's Cat House Bed & Breakfast

A few blocks from downtown, 4 rooms, children & pets welcome, \$75

Victor:

Victor Mall Hotel

Downtown Victor, 4 units consisting of 8 rooms, private baths, continental breakfast, \$25-\$109, (719)689-3347

Modern Hotel/Motels

Cripple Creek:

Gold King Mountain Inn of Cripple Creek

Overlooking Cripple Creek, free shuttle service to/from Cripple Creek, 67 rooms, complimentary breakfast, handicap accessible, \$69-\$109, 1-800-445-3607, (719)689-2600, FAX (719) 689-3426, www.goldkingmountaininncripplecreek.com

Cripple Creek 8 Motel

2 1/2 blocks to downtown Cripple Creek, 47 rooms, each w/ 2 queen beds, one handicap accessible room, coffee & toast bar or breakfast coupons through Johnny Nolan Casino, shuttle to/from Cripple Creek, \$74.15, group rate (\$63.55) available if 10 -15 rooms. (719) 689-2288

Basic Hotel/Motels

Cripple Creek:

Cripple Creek Hotel

Old schoolhouse-1/2 block from downtown, private baths, 13 rooms, 8 handicap accessible, \$55-\$75, (719)689-3709

Cripple Creek Motel

On highway 67 entering Cripple Creek

16 rooms, pets welcome, \$45-\$74, (719)689-2491

Casino/Hotels

Cripple Creek:

Double Eagle Hotel & Casino

Downtown, 158 rooms, handicap accessible, free valet parking, breakfast buffet, restaurant, 1-800-711-7234, (719)689-5000

Gold Rush Hotel & Casino

Downtown, 14 rooms, restaurant, no children, to \$109, 1-800-235-8239, (719)689-2646

Imperial Hotel & Casino

Historic hotel downtown, 27 rooms, some with private baths, call for rates 1-800-235-2922, (719)689-7777

J.P.McGill's Hotel & Casino

Midnight Rose Hotel & Casino

Downtown, 54 rooms, 3 handicap accessible, continental breakfast, restaurant, \$95 weekends, \$45 weekdays, 1-888-461-7529, (719)689-2446

Defying Definition

Cripple Creek:

Westward Ho Motel

on main street of Cripple Creek, 1 block to downtown, 4 cabins, each w/ 2 queen beds, private baths, microwave, coffeepot ~\$59, (719)689-0622

Victor:

Fortune Club Hotel

downtown Victor, 10 rooms w/double beds, shared bath, \$40-\$55, (719)689-2501

The Thompson House

downtown Victor, gold miner's cabin w/ kitchenette, bath, double bed & trundle bed, call for rate, (719)689-5700, theVictorspirit@aol.com

Campgrounds/RV Parks

Cripple Creek:

Hospitality House RV and Campground

Located on edge of town, next to Hospitality House Hotel, 50 RV hookups, \$19, unlimited campsites, \$15, showers, coin laundry etc., 1-800-500-2513, (719) 689-2513, www.cripple-creek.co.us/hosp.html

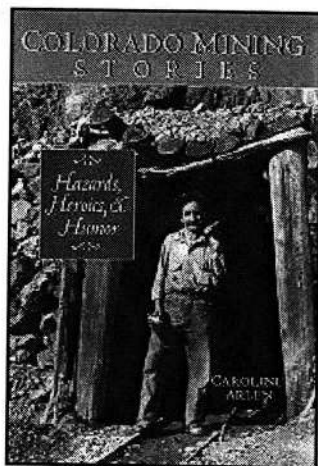
Prospector's RV Park

Just south of downtown Cripple Creek 16 RV hookups, \$20, 45 campsites \$10, showers, laundry, grocery store, (719) 689-2006

Cripple Creek KOA Campground

6 miles from Cripple Creek or Victor on state Hwy 67, RV and camping sites, \$22-\$27, cabins \$44-\$52, 1-800-562-9125, (719) 689-3376

Book Notes



Colorado Mining Stories, Hazards, Heroics and Humor by Caroline Arlen Price: \$12.95 US 176 page, 57 Photographs, ISBN: 1-890437-74-3, Softbound, Western Reflections Publishing Company, P. O. Box 1647, Montrose, CO 81402-1647, 800/993-4490, Fax 970-249-7181, e-mail westref@montrose.net, www.westernreflections.pub.com.

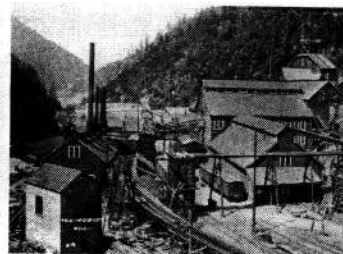
"My father once told me, 'Son, mining

Support Your Association's Journal

The MHA Council and the Editor of *The Mining History Journal* invite you to submit manuscripts on various aspects of mining history that will inform our membership. Manuscripts should be submitted in typescript, double-spaced with endnotes on an IBM compatible computer disk, in addition to a paper copy. Microsoft WORD or Wordperfect formats are required. Illustrations should not be embedded in the article (their location should be marked in the article text). All articles are required to follow style formats as specified in the *Chicago Manual of Style* (14th edition).

Manuscripts for the Journal should be submitted to Eric Clements, Mining History Journal, Department of History MS2960, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, eclements@semovm.

THE MINING HISTORY JOURNAL



The Eighth Annual Journal of
The Mining History Association

is a wonderful, honest way to make a living, but in the end, you'll either get silicosis or you'll get maimed or you'll get killed."

Throughout the stories that Caroline Arlen collected for this fascinating book, you will hear the same type of contradictions. Most of the men and the few women who worked the mines talk about how much they love mining, and in their next breath they tell about the horrific accidents that happened almost daily at the workplace. Every time they entered the mine for their shift, they

faced the very real possibility that they might not return home. These miners put their lives on the line, hoping they would not be the next one to die or be maimed as a result of a cave-in, premature explosion, or a falling slab. But mining was their way of life, and one that paid well and created a close community where folks found it necessary and important to look after each other. These wonderful stories give a good depiction of the hardships, the heroics, and the special brand of humor that is unique to hardrock mining.

Guest Column

Do You Like Diversity?

Bob Weldin

Working on arrangements and especially registration and program for the Wallace meeting, I came to the conclusion that the Mining History Association is a very diverse organization. I remember reading or hearing, that the founding fathers of MHA had as one of their goals, to expand the initial group of academic and professional historians by trying to attract members from government and industry. If their goal was to achieve greater diversity, they have succeeded admirably. Certainly, that original core of historians must have been divided by individual specialties and philosophical differences. Adding members with government background contributes ideas and concepts as diverse as the regulatory, land management and scientific agencies that employed them. Those with industry backgrounds are also quite varied in their education and experience and all share a "rock in the box" orientation that helps bring any hardcore idealists in our organization back to economic reality. Hopefully, you will agree, that this diversity is one of MHA's great assets. But our diversity does not stop with academic and professional differences. We seem to have a very wide range of interests, even when it comes to that one subject we all have a passion for---Mining History!

When I received the 2002 Membership Directory, I was delighted to see that many of our members were willing to share their interests with the rest of us. One hundred and sixty-nine of you responded to the survey by listing 1 to 3 of your areas of primary interest. I could not resist using this data to attempt a quick, "poor man's" statistical analysis.

So far this year, we are three persons short of 300 members and 50 short of matching our 2001 membership. Judging by first names, only 17 percent of our membership are women. Twenty members live outside the US, mostly in Canada, Australia and the UK. Coloradans represent nearly 22 percent of those with United States addresses. That seems appropriate since the roots of the MHA are deeply embedded in Colorado. Our most populous State and one with a significant mining history, California, comes in a poor second with only one-half as many MHA members as Colorado. Arizona and Nevada follow closely with 10 and 9 percent, respectively. Those four States have more than half of our membership. Throw in the next 5 ranking States (NM, WA, AK, IL & TX) and you have over 70 percent of our US members. There is nothing wrong with this set of numbers, except it points out the fact that several States with significant mining histories are not well-represented by our membership. Holding our annual meetings in a variety of old mining camps throughout the US should help relieve this imbalance and better publicize our organization. Last June's meeting in Northern Idaho, for example, increased that State's membership from zero in 2001 to five in 2002---not a large number but a huge percentage increase.

Forty percent of the respondents to the survey indicated a State or Country as one of their primary areas of interest. Not surprisingly, States with the largest MHA membership (CO, CA & NV) also ranked highest in historical interest. The only anomaly is Idaho, which ranks fourth as a locality of historical interest but only ranks about 15th in membership. Other States getting votes for interest, in approximate descending order, are AZ & NM (tied for 5th place), followed by AK, MI, MT, SD, MN, MO, UT, PA, NJ and KY. Three non-State localities receiving two or more votes from our US respondents were the Rocky Mountains, the Great Basin and somewhat surpris-

ingly, Latin America.

Interestingly, coal mining history edged-out gold mining by one vote to become the most popular commodity of interest. Copper mining history was a close third, followed by iron, lead and industrial minerals (trona, lime, stone and brick making). Silver, uranium and chromite each received one or two votes.

Excluding localities and commodities, Mining Technology (#1) and Historical Preservation (#2) are the two most frequently mentioned categories of interest by the 169 MHA respondents. Getting only half as many votes are the subjects of Ethnic & Labor History (#3) and Mining Camps & Ghost Towns (#4). Biography of Mining Figures and, Finance & Investment in Mining tied for fifth place, followed closely by Mining Company History (#6). Four categories of interest tied for seventh place: Environmental Impact of Mining, Books-Photos & Postcards, Archaeology, and Mining & Railroads. Other categories of interest, in approximate descending order are: Mineralogy, Nineteenth Century Mining, Manuscript and Archival Collection, Exploration (for ore deposits), Mining Antiques, Milling & Smelting, Geography & Landscapes, Mining Law, Westward Expansion, Twentieth Century Mining, Geology, Women In Mining, Mine Rescue & Disasters, Museum Information, Education, and Infrastructure.

What should we conclude from analysis of this information? You be the judge. I'll simply draw your attention to what I think are three anomalous observations: (1) the small percentage of women members, (2) the number of mining localities that are not well represented by our membership and, (3) the high percentage of members interested in Historical (Mining) Preservation. Now it's your turn to draw conclusions, if you care to play the statistics game?

Drill Bits



Richard H. Peterson is offering the remaining copies of his book *Bonanza Rich: Lifestyles of the Western Mining Entrepreneur* (1991, out of print) to MHA members at a reduced rate. It can be purchased from the author for \$15.00 (postage paid). His address is 7956 Lake Adlon Drive, San Diego, CA 92119-3117, (619)464-7935.

The Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Colorado Springs, Colorado will open a new permanent outdoor exhibit titled, "Reclamation: New Life for Mined Lands and the Environment". It will explore how reclamation is an integral part of the mining process, minimizing impacts to the air, land, and water. Interactive displays and interpretive signs will highlight innovative management practices to

remediate mine-water quality challenges in the Rocky Mountain West. Stops along the trail will address issues such as the importance of water quality in all phases of reclamation, wetlands, preservation, hydrology, seed collection and revegetation.

A follow-up to our last meeting in Wallace, Idaho: a new video has been released on the Sunshine Mine fire. "You Are My Sunshine" is the result of more than 60 hours of taping and interviewing the 27 survivors of the May 2, 1972 fire that killed 91 miners. Families of the survivors and victims, and members of the community were also interviewed. Re-enactments of escapes from the mine were shot at the Sunshine Mine and in mines nearby. Historic photographs and movies, artifacts and props, and background information place the Sunshine in its environmental, cultural and historical setting. To obtain a copy of the video or for more information, contact Elaine Cullen, Spokane Research Laboratory,

East 315 Montgomery, Spokane, WA 99207, phone 509/354-8057, email efc8@cdc.gov

MHA member Chip Parfet has donated, to the Russell & Lynn Wood Mining History Archive at the Colorado School of Mines, over 30 boxes of industrial catalogs, brochures, and photographs he acquired more than 17 years ago, when the Morse Brothers Equipment Company went out of business in Denver. The Morse Brothers was one of the world's largest purveyors of used and reconditioned mining and heavy industrial machinery in the world. Over the almost 90 years they were in business, they amassed a huge collection of information that served as reference material for their work reconditioning machinery. This is one of the finest collections of its type in the world, and when it is fully cataloged and made accessible, it will serve as a resource for the study of the mining technology in the 20th century.

2003 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 2003, please ignore this notice. The mailing label on this issue of the newsletter should reflect the year for which you have paid.

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

☐ 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.mininghistoryassociation.org

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Mark and Karen Vendl, Newsletter
Editors

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*. MHA hosts an annual conference, including tours, symposiums, and social events.

14th Annual MHA Conference, Cripple Creek, Colorado, June 5-8, 2003

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Post Office Box 150300
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