

Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

March 2004



Volume 15, Number 1

MHA in 2004: Time for Travel and Transitions

When Ed Hunter reflected upon the MHA accomplishments in 2003, he modestly omitted reference to one of the great accomplishments of the year—the exciting conference that he and Cherry organized in the Cripple Creek District. The conference offered variety in weather, program, activities and food. Those of us from the Southwest enjoyed the snowfall that accompanied the conference, and all appreciated the locations for sessions and meals. It isn't often that the President also functions as local arrangements chair, but Ed did both skillfully and graciously.

You will find much information in this newsletter about our Farmington, Missouri conference, which will occur June 17-20. Make your plans to attend this summer's conference and be certain to register early for lodging and the conference events. Eric Clements has chosen to follow Ed's example by serving as local arrangements shift boss while simultaneously serving as editor of the *Mining History Journal*. "Clem" restored the annual journal to its timetable as the tenth edition appeared in 2003. I especially enjoyed working with him on the 2003 edition, and know that he wants to maintain its timely production. If you have an unpublished essay, submit it first to the journal.

Last June the board and members accepted the challenge of going east for consecutive conferences—Missouri and then Pennsylvania. We recognize that these decisions pose a danger because the conferences will involve more travel for our western membership. We need your help and at-

tendance to make these conferences successful. Please take a few moments to recall colleagues and friends who could join us for both events. Jot them a note about the conferences and encourage them to join us for the renowned fellowship and cuisine that we associate with the annual conferences. Going to Missouri and then to Scranton, Pennsylvania, is consistent with our stated mission of serving as "an organization of individuals interested in the history of mining and metallurgy."

Five years ago, we held a long-range planning session before the Ouray meeting, and it is probably appropriate to hold another such session in Farmington. I have discussed this initiative briefly with Bob Spude and Eric Clements. You probably have some ideas or concerns that ought to be considered at a planning conference, so I invite you to send me a letter or an email message and raise such topics as you think appropriate. My home address is 823 Willow Creek Cr., San Marcos, TX 78666, and my email address is RonBrown@txstate.edu. I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions.

In the coming months I intend to contact all of the state and local historical societies in the Midwest and East to announce our upcoming conferences. I expect that these invitations will bring our association to the attention of persons interested in mining, metallurgy and the history of both, but our personal involvement in recruiting new participants poses the best opportunity to expand our membership and fellowship. If you have not visited our website

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Sites and Sights: 2004 Conference

TRADITION INN:

Located at the intersection of Highway 67 and Highway W in Farmington, Missouri, the Tradition Inn will be the site of all conference activities excepting tours. The hotel features 94 rooms, a meeting and banquet facility, a restaurant and pub, and fitness center and pool. Continental breakfast and other amenities are included with the price of the room. Specially priced senior dinners are offered in the restaurant from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please indicate that you desire the MHA conference rate, which is \$60 per room, per night, to a maximum of four persons. Non-smoking rooms and special facilities for handicapped persons are available upon request.

Tradition Inn

1625 West Columbia Street
Farmington, MO 63640.

573-756-8031

For toll-free reservations: (877) 355-6205

e-mail: tradinn@socket.com

web: www.traditioninn.com

THURSDAY BUS TOUR:

Doe Run's Herculaneum Smelter:

The Doe Run Company is North America's largest

integrated lead producer. Doe Run is the world's largest primary lead producer and the world's second largest total lead producer. Corporate and sales headquarters are located in suburban St. Louis, Missouri. Mining and milling operations occur in southeastern Missouri in the ore-rich Viburnum Trend. Lead smelting and refining are performed at the nation's largest lead smelting complex in Herculaneum, Missouri—one of the most productive such facilities in the world. Lead concentrate from the mills is converted into refined lead, with copper, silver, nickel, and sulfuric acid produced as byproducts of the process.—www.doerun.com

Knight Hawk Coal Co.'s Creek Paum surface mine and Mississippi River barge loader:

In the year 2000 the Creek Paum mine produced over three-quarters of a million tons of coal from a four-foot-thick seam that extends to a depth of sixty feet. The tour will visit this surface mine—located near Ava in Jackson County, Illinois—then see the company's barge-loading facility on the Mississippi River at Chester, Illinois.

This pre-conference Herculaneum smelter-Creek Paum mine tour is limited to the first thirty persons to register as determined by date of postmark.

The *Mining History News* is published quarterly by the Mining History Association. It is sent to MHA members who also receive the annual *Mining History Journal*. MHA is an organization of individuals interested in the history of mining and metallurgy. Annual membership: general \$25, international \$35, sustaining \$50, patron \$100, and corporate \$500. Send check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the Mining History Association, Colorado School of Mines Library, 1400 Illinois St., Golden, CO 80401.

Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Mark and Karen Vendl, 1136 Kemman Ave., La-Grange Park, IL, 60526; email: mkvendl@earthlink.net

Deadlines: March issue: February 15
June issue: May 15
September issue: August 15
December issue: November 15

MHA Mini-Conference ...

**Mark your calendar!
Plan to attend!**

**Gold Hill,
Boulder County, Colorado,
August 13-15, 2004**

**Registration Info :
Next MHA Newsletter**

FRIDAY CARPOOL TOUR:*Missouri Mines State Historic Site:*

Located within the eastern Ozarks is an area known as the Old Lead Belt. This area was the nation's major source of lead metal for more than 60 years; it is part of the great Southeast Missouri lead district, the premier lead mining district of the world.

Serious small-scale mining for lead began in Southeast Missouri about 1720. A large demand for lead in the late 19th century brought major corporate enterprises to the Old Lead Belt. More than a thousand miles of abandoned multilevel mine tunnels, with three hundred miles of underground mainline railroad tracks, are testimony to 108 years of mining in this area. St. Joseph Lead Company dominated ore production, continuing operations in this district until 1972.

In 1975, the company donated the twenty-five buildings of their largest mine-mill complex, the Federal Mill No. 3, to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. This became the Missouri Mines State Historic Site. The 19,000 square-foot mine-mill powerhouse has been developed into a large museum that interprets Missouri's mining history and displays old mining machinery and an outstanding mineral collection. Related books, minerals and mineral jewelry are sold in the museum shop.—www.mostateparks.com

Bonne Terre Mine:

The Bonne Terre mine was once the world's largest lead mine, located in the heart of Missouri's industrial-era Lead Belt. The St. Joseph Lead Company began developing the mine in 1864 and closed it a century later. The lower three levels of this five-level mine have flooded since shutdown. Our one-hour tour of the upper two levels will explore a good example of one of the region's room-and-pillar type lead mines, as well as machinery and artifacts that remain on the site.

The Bonne Terre mines have been in operation for about 75 years. The property was developed from a shallow diggings to a deep mine operation. . . . About 190 men are now employed in the mines at Bonne Terre. The lead deposit runs from near the

surface to a depth of over 400 feet. In fact, some very rich ore is within 26 feet of the surface and very close to the area in and around the main office.—W. L. Bouchard, "A Trip Through Bonne Terre Mines and Surface Operations," *Lead Belt News*, Flat River, Missouri, Fri. 4 Mar. 1949.

Access to the Bonne Terre mine is possible only by descending and ascending 65 stairs at the beginning and end of the tour. The underground trails are in good condition, but also require some climbing and descending. Mine temperature is 62 degrees. You may choose to join both of these tours or to return directly to the hotel after visiting Missouri Mines State Historic Site.

SUNDAY BUS TOUR:*Doe Run's Buick Recycling Facility (Sunday tour):*

The Doe Run Resource Recycling Facility at Boss, Missouri, processes spent lead-acid batteries and other lead-bearing waste. Each year, this state-of-the-art facility reclaims ninety thousand tons of refined lead. Whole batteries are dismantled and their components separated by a combination of screening and gravity separation. In addition to sixty-pound lead ingots, this process produces a high-quality sodium sulfate marketed to the laundry detergent, paper, and glass industries. —www.doerun.com

Palmer Mining District, Washington County, Missouri (Sunday tour):

The Palmer District in southwestern Washington County, Missouri, is the location of some of the oldest mining operations in Missouri. Work and settlement in this area began early in the nineteenth century and the town was established in the 1830s. With the location of the first Scotch hearth furnace in the state (1836), the district played a central role in the industry throughout most of the century. The Palmer District operated on a plantation system, with the land owned by the company and worked by both contract miners and employees, who mined shallow deposits of galena by hand and delivered ore to a central furnace.

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MHA 2004 Conference Agenda

All activities except field trips take place at the Tradition Inn, Farmington, Missouri.

Thursday, June 17

Pre-conference tour, limit 30

- 8:30 am. Depart Farmington
- 9:30-11:30 am. Tour of Doe Run's Herculaneum lead smelter
- 12:00-1:00 pm. Box lunch on the run
- 1:00-2:30 pm. Tour of Knight Hawk Coal Co. surface mine, Ava, Illinois
- 3:00-3:30 pm. Tour of Knight Hawk Coal Co. barge-loading facility, Chester, Illinois
- 5:00 pm. Return to Farmington
- 1:00-5:00 pm. Conference Registration
- 6:30-9:00 pm. Welcoming Reception (Speaker: Ed Raines)

Friday, June 18

- 7:00-8:00 am. Conference registration, continued
- 8:00 am.-12:30 pm. Tour of Missouri Mines State Park and Bonne Terre Mine
- 12:30-2:00 pm. Lunch on your own
- 12:30-2:00 pm. MHA board meeting
- 1:00-2:00 pm. Conference registration, continued
- 2:00-3:30 pm. First Session of Presentations
The First Book on the Western Mining Frontier: Henry R. Schoolcraft, 1819, Robert Sorgenfrei
The Lead Belt's Foray into Strategic Metals: Fredericktown, Missouri, Larry Southwick
Rush: Capital of the Northern Arkansas Zinc Fields, Chris Huggard
- 3:45-5:15 pm. Second Session of Presentations
Ten Years in the Wilderness: Mining in Wilderness Areas, Bob Weldin
Silver in Missouri: Douglas Gasek
Mining Landscapes of the Missouri Ozarks, James Wettstaed
- 7:00-9:30 pm. MHA Banquet
 Speaker: Joe Wagner, former Vice President for Exploration and Geology, Doe Run Mg. Co.)

Saturday, June 19

- 8:30-10:00 am. **Third Session of Presentations**
Victorian Bonanza-Mining Architecture in the Rocky Mountain West, Cathleen Norman
Carrie Everson: An Inventive Woman Lost in a Man's World, Dawn Bunyak
The Contention Aerial Tramway, San Juan County, Colorado, Douglas Thayer
The Fertig Brothers: Colorado's Mining Engineer Heroes, Stephen Hart
- 10:15-11:45 am. **Fourth Session of Presentations**
Mine Safety, Technological Change and Americanization in Pennsylvania's Anthracite Industry, Eric Nystrom
Strategic Minerals and National Defense: Tungsten in World Wars I and II, Ron Limbaugh
Essential or Essentially Useless: Industrial Minerals and the Impact of Necessity, 1914-18, Andrew Morris
- 12:00-1:15 pm. **Presidential Luncheon**
- 1:30-3:00 pm. **Fifth Session of Presentations**
The Rise and Fall of a Major Australian Mining Company: Broken Hill South Limited, Ross and Ann Both
The History of the Schemnitz Silver-Gold Mines, Peter Siems
The Dilemma of Abandoned Mines in South Australia, Greg Drew
- 3:15-4:45 pm. **Sixth Session of Presentations**
The Search for the Jackson Mine-A Hole if the Ground Partially Owned by Mark Twain, Peter Maciulaitis
No Earthly Chance for Coal: W.K. Gordon's Prospecting Trip, 1895, Richard Francaviglia
EPA Cleanup: Elizabeth and Ely Copper Mines, Matt Kierstead
Salisbury, Wells Fargo and Homestake Gold, Bill Wahl
- 5:00-6:00 pm. **MHA Business Meeting**
- 6:00-8:00 pm. **Dinner on your own.**
- 8:00-9:00 pm. **Video: Lead Mining in Southeast Missouri (U.S. Bureau of Mines, ca. 1940).**

Sunday, June 20**Post-conference tour:**

- 9:00 am. **Depart Farmington.**
- 10:00 am.-12:00 pm. **Tour Doe Run's Buick lead recycling facility.**
- 1:00-4:00 pm. **Tour of the Palmer Mining District, Washington County, Missouri.**
- 5:00 pm. **Return to Farmington.**



Take I-70 west from St. Louis Airport to I-270 South.

I-270 South to the I-55 interchange (I-270 will turn into I-255 past I-55).

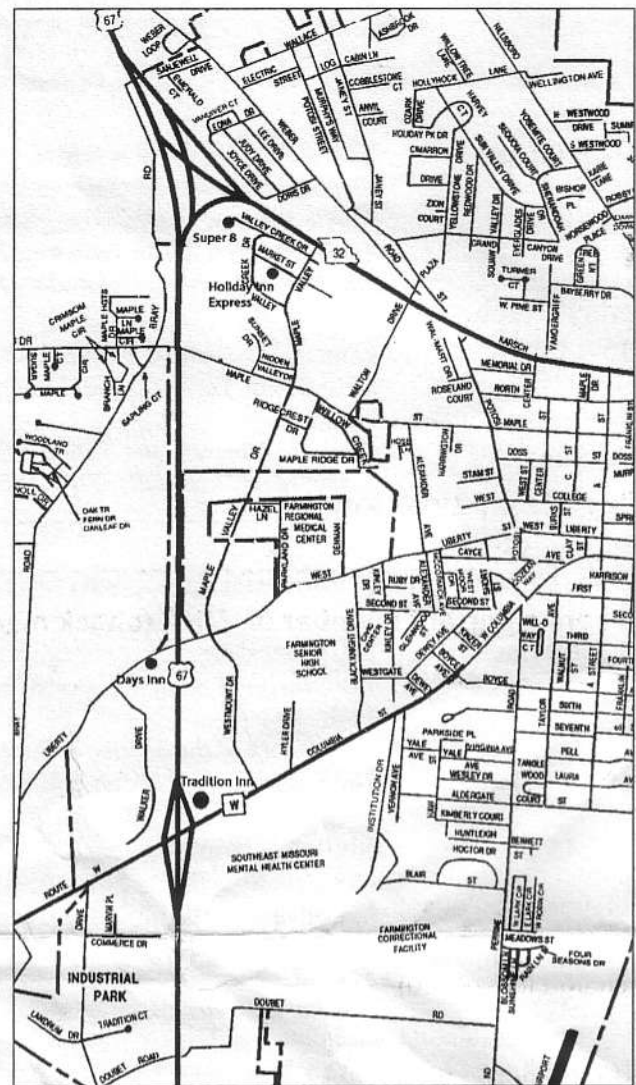
Hwy 67 South to Hwy W

Turn Left onto Hwy W and Tradition Inn will be immediately on the left side.

(www.mininghistoryassociation.org), take time to explore it. You can navigate it easily, and it contains valuable information such as the useful bibliographies compiled by Bob Spude, Bob Weldin, and Otis Young.

Ron Brown

Lead ore in the Palmer area occurs as nodules of galena surrounded by red clay. For a century or more, miners typically followed the crevices and channels using as small an opening as possible, often no bigger than four feet on a side. Lead production essentially ceased in 1905, but barite pro-



duction became increasingly important. Barite was mined using the same methods as lead until the 1930s, when the industry mechanized. Barite mining continued until the 1970s.

Our tour will visit the Hazel Creek Furnace and the Parole Mine, both nineteenth-century works. The Hazel Creek site includes the remains of the furnace and of a dam which powered an ore crusher and other equipment. At the Parole site, miners recovered galena and barite from about fifty pits and shafts ranging from 3 to almost 150 feet in depth, spread over an area of approximately ten hectares. Evidence for the barite mining is visible throughout the area and several mining features will be passed while traveling through the District.

—James Wettstaed, Archaeologist, Mark Twain National Forest

MHA 2004 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

FARMINGTON, MISSOURI, JUNE 17-20, 2004

Please print or type

Attendee Information

Today's Date: _____

Name (for name badge): _____

Spouse's Name (for name badge): _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip / Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

☐ I am a current member of MHA (check mailing label for "2004")

Conference Registration

Event	Cost per Attendee	Number Attending	Total per Event
Conference Registration: MHA members (no charge for spouse)	\$30		
Conference Registration: Non-Members (no charge for spouse)	\$35		
Thursday Tour (smelter and coal mine. Includes box lunch) Limit 30 persons	\$35		
Reception	Free with registration		
Friday Carpool Tour of Missouri Mines State Park only	\$3		
Friday Carpool Tour of Missouri Mines State Park and Bonne Terre underground mine	\$12		
MHA Annual Banquet	\$15		
MHA Presidential Luncheon	\$10		
Sunday Tour (Doe Run lead recycling center and historic mining site. Includes box lunch)	\$25		
Total Payment			

Payment Information

Make Checks Payable to: Mining History Association (All payments must be made in U.S. dollars only)
Mail completed registration form and payment to:

**Mining History Association
P.O. Box 132
Cape Girardeau, MO 63702-0132**

*Mining History Association
Colorado School of Mines Library
1400 Illinois St.
Golden, CO 80401*



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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