



Fall 2011

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

The Race

Some years ago, the last operator in the Upper-Mississippi Valley Zinc/Lead District obtained final reclamation approvals from the states of Wisconsin and Illinois, and prepared to close up shop. Its on-site manager called the Wisconsin and Illinois geological surveys and offered them a brief “window of opportunity” to take any records of potential interest. An acquaintance at the Wisconsin survey asked if I would help review and interpret historic documents.

Upon arrival at the company’s mine office, we were stunned to see the site manager busily dumping boxes of papers into a large ore can serving as an ad hoc burn barrel. In fairness, the guy was no villain; the building had already been sold, and he had simply been told to clear everything out as quickly as possible. He was also quite good about sparing materials we identified as things we wished to review, but only for a short time. The new owner was to take possession in a matter of days and, given the volume of materials involved, we could do little more than triage. The burn barrel stayed hot.

Coincidentally, not many weeks later, a wayward spark from a nearby brush fire set alight the last substantially intact shaft house in southwestern Wisconsin. It, too, was quickly reduced to smoke and ash. Such episodes, regularly repeated elsewhere to a greater or lesser degree, must remind us that mining’s “robust” character is -- in significant part -- illusory. Much of the industry’s heritage is, in fact, surprisingly fragile and ephemeral. And those who seek to save it are in a race -- a race against indifference, neglect, decay and flames.

The Mining History Association has a long and distinguished record of honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to the study and interpretation of industry records, sites, and artifacts. But we have not done nearly as well with respect to those whose labors focus on the preservation of the “stuff” of mining history.

Arguably, theirs is the tougher task and, without their efforts, the outlook for future historians is rather bleak.

Thus, it is time that we get in the race. To that end, I will soon appoint a committee to establish the contours of and criteria for an annual historic preservation award to recognize and support outstanding efforts to protect, preserve, stabilize, collect, curate and interpret the “stuff” of mining history. Such work can be difficult, is often costly, and frequently offers only one chance to get it right. Potential recipients -- whether local historic preservation groups, museums, libraries or individuals -- will be recognizable not so much by what they say they will do as by what they have actually been doing.

When the notion of such an award first arose at our 2009 meeting in Creede, CO, there was immediate sentiment for associating it with the late Jim Beselme. Jim, a strong advocate of historic preservation efforts, would certainly be pleased about that. And, I am sure he would also be honored to “share the platform” with any benefactor (such as the late Frank Lewis Orrell, Jr.) whose generosity might help underwrite such an award. But, I will leave that to the committee and, ultimately, to the Council to decide. Please contact me promptly if you are interested

"The Race..." (continued on page 2)

"The Race..." (continued from page 1)

in serving on this "historic preservation award" committee. It is important that we have that committee's report and recommendations in hand in sufficient time for the Council to take formal action in Prescott.

This is a race, and we are now in it.

Mark Langenfeld
Monticello, WI
lmlangenfeld@tds.net

Member Seeks Research Suggestions

MHA member Robert Gibney shares notice of his ongoing research project:

I have undertaken a personal historical research and music project about the life and music of the hardrock miners of the Bradshaw Mountains, Yavapai County, Arizona, 1870-1920, and would welcome any input, suggestions, or new material that may contribute.

My ongoing research project is divided into three areas:

Historical mining music: I have collected a large group of songs based on the work of Emrich, Lingenfelter, and other scholars, and am planning to record music of the mining era. This will include fiddle / dance tunes, popular songs, and mining songs.

The life and work of the hardrock miners: I am developing as much biographical information as possible about the miners who worked in Territorial Arizona based on census records, historical accounts, and oral histories. I am looking for correspondence, payroll records, photos, and other primary sources related to the day-to-day life in the mining camps.

Original songs about mining history: I am writing and recording original songs that tell the stories that I am discovering about people and events of the period 1870-1920. You can refer to my blog for songs that I have written: <http://crownkinghiker.blogspot.com>

Contact information: Robert T. Gibney, 9049 N. 29th St., Phoenix, AZ, 85028; rtgibney@gmail.com

International Mining History Congress to be Held In South Africa, April 2012

Interested researchers are invited to present a paper at the 9th International Mining History Conference, April 17-20, 2012, Johannesburg, South Africa. The International Mining History Congress brings together practitioners of mining history in all of its forms to exchange recent research findings. Papers are invited from academics, amateur historians, former and present employees of the mining industry, government officials, conservationists, archivists, and curators.

This is the first time the congress has assembled in Africa, and conference organizers are delighted that South Africa has been invited to host the event. The world is increasingly dependent on the continent's mining industry, with South Africa being the biggest producer of platinum and a major player in the mining of gold, coal, iron and other major minerals. Africa has a long history of mining, one that, especially in the case of diamonds and gold, had considerable impact on the world's economy, engineering and labor relations. From its pre-colonial past to its post-colonial present, African mining has departed from practices elsewhere, while also sharing much in common. This combination of the unique and the universal will contribute to the character and success of the congress. The event itself will be held in Johannesburg, the City of Gold, close to both Rustenburg, the Platinum City, and also the Cradle of Humankind. As with any South African conference, it will provide excellent opportunities for study tours and conventional tourism, as well as intellectual stimulation.

Papers and presentations may be scientific or experiential, and there are no rules about their length. Selection will be on the basis of merit. For consideration please include the title, a 300-word proposal (abstract), a 50-word biographical note. The organizers also welcome proposals for panels on any of the above themes. For details about fees, please visit the conference web site. There will be a limited number of bursaries available for students. The web site also provides details about registration, program, organizers, accommodations, and tourism opportunities. The address is www.imhc.co.za

Please send abstracts or questions to the conference secretariat Richard Bailey, richard@imhc.co.za. **Please submit abstracts by November 2011, and the full text of papers is due by January 31, 2012.**

New Books by MHA Authors

Note: This is the second installment of our annual Fall feature announcing new books by MHA members. This feature helps bring new books on mining history to the attention of our membership. To participate, send complete book details and a description to Eric Nystrom, Newsletter Editor, at eric.nystrom@rit.edu.

Jane Bardal, *Southwestern New Mexico Mining Towns* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 127 pages; paperback: \$21.99, ISBN 978-0-7385-7927-6.

Spanish and American prospectors discovered gold, silver, and copper mines in southwestern New Mexico in the 1800s. This volume describes the further development of these mining operations into the early 1900s. During this time period improvements in technology made mining profitable and Eastern corporations invested in New Mexico mines. This era saw the development of paternalistic company towns. Miners faced difficult and dangerous working conditions, but their lives improved compared to previous generations. This book tells the stories of the towns and the people in southwestern New Mexico that owed their livelihood, in whole or in part, to mining. Dr. Jane Bardal has compiled over 200 images from private postcard collections. In the early 1900s, people sent postcards to stay in touch with others and to show off their town and industrial developments. These postcards give us a snapshot of life in the early 1900s.

Peter Claughton and Catherine Mills, eds. *Mining Perspectives: Proceedings of the 8th International Mining History Congress 2009* (Truro, UK: Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, 2011), softcover: £12.50 (\$20) excluding postage, ISBN 978-1-903798-77-5. To order, contact Peter Claughton: p.f.claughton@exeter.ac.uk

Mining Perspectives is a peer reviewed edited volume containing a selection of papers presented at the Eighth International Mining History Congress held in June 2009. The Congress is a continuing series of triennial international meetings, aiming to bring together practitioners of mining history across all disciplines, to exchange recent research findings, and to consider how the subject area might be developed to satisfy new interests and demands. The volume contains a selection of 22 primary research based studies, subdivided into six Section headings: Technology, Conflict and Labour Relations, Mining Archaeology, Heritage and Interpretation, Mining Personalities, Mineral Exploitation and Mining Society. The traditional strengths of economic, technological and labour histories are combined with new agendas in heritage and archaeological interpretation of the post-mining landscape; new directions that will ensure that the

historical study of the extractive industries remains a vibrant sub-discipline of history well into the 21st century.

Cripple Creek District Museum, *The Cripple Creek District* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 128 pages; paperback: \$25.98, ISBN: 978-0738582146.

This newest book about the fabulous Cripple Creek District presents a new perspective on mining history and what it was like to live in the gold boom era. It contains over 240 historic images, some never published before, along with personal stories from long time residents. The book was written by the District's most qualified historians: the staff and Board of Directors of the Museum, and may be ordered directly from the Museum (price above includes shipping when ordered from the Museum).

David F. Myrick, *Railroads of Arizona, Volume 6: Jerome and the Northern Roads* (Berkeley, CA: Signature Press, 2010), 248 pages, 235 photos, 28 maps; hardcover: \$60, ISBN: 978-1-930013-27-8.

Though the ostensible focus of this book is railroads, many of the lines depicted by David F. Myrick in his latest addition to his well-known series on Arizona railroads existed only to serve the vast and important mining operations of that portion of the state. Jerome was served by four railroads at various times, most notably the Verde Tunnel & Smelter Railroad, a property of United Verde Copper Company, the primary mining producer at Jerome. Myrick thoroughly documents several shorter-lived railroads which served mining camps, and also covers the modern coal-hauling roads. Myrick's railroad histories encompass the histories of the towns and regions they served, providing a lively and detailed view of the history of pioneer Arizona. More than 235 photographs, most previously unpublished, enrich this book, in addition to 28 maps. Material from period newspapers and other publications enlivens the text, with much mining as well as railroad history.

Jody Pavilack, *Mining for the Nation: The Politics of Chile's Coal Communities from the Popular Front to the Cold War* (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2011), 416 pages; cloth: \$84.95, ISBN: 978-0-271-03769-1.

The dramatic story of Chile's coal miners in the mid-twentieth century has never before been told. In *Mining for the Nation*, Jody Pavilack shows how these workers became a stronghold of support for the Communist Party as it embraced cross-class alliances to defeat fascism, promote national development, and deepen Chilean

Mine Trails and Byways Highlight Wyoming's Mining Heritage

Laura Nowlin

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) operates an exciting new program that will help to bring to the forefront our State's important mining history. The Wyoming Legislature established the Wyoming Historic Mine Trail and Byway Program (Mine Byways) in 2005. The program originally operated under a commission created by legislation. During the 2009 Legislature, the commission was dissolved and the program was moved to the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Division of the State Historic Preservation Office Monuments and Markers Program. The Monuments and Markers program coordinator (program coordinator) became the administrator of the program.

Objectives of the program are to 1) Provide a precise history of mineral development in Wyoming; 2) Interpret the role of mining and minerals in the development of Wyoming's economy; 3) Identify and describe Wyoming's mining and mineral development heritage. These objectives are reached through partnerships with local interest groups, the Wyoming Office of Tourism, the Wyoming Mining Association, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, and others.

How the Mine Byway Program Works

The Historic Mine Trail and Byway program designates historic mining areas and links them through a nominated trail or byway. Nominations for historic mine trails or byways are submitted either by the public, a government agency, or internally by the SHPO staff. Nominations are reviewed by the SHPO's Monuments and Markers Advisory Committee (MMAC) according to its regular review schedule for Monuments and Markers applications. At least two members of MMAC are selected based on their expertise in Wyoming's mining history.

Upon acceptance by the MMAC, the nominating entity must work with the program coordinator to develop an interpretive plan. Upon completion of the plan, interpretive signage will be reviewed by the MMAC at its regularly scheduled meeting. Upon installation of interpretive signage, the program coordinator will work with the nominating entity to hold a dedication ceremony of the Mine Byway.

Existing Historic Mine Trails and Byways

The 2005 Legislature established the first Historic Mine Trail. The **Gold Flakes to Yellowcake Historic Mine Trail** links the gold mines located in South Pass City, Miners' Delight, and Atlantic City to the uranium mines in the Crooks Gap and Gas Hills mining districts located in Fremont County, Wyoming. Following the move of the



Carneyville Cemetery along the Sheridan County Historic Mine Byway, 2011 (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office)

program to Monuments and Markers in February of 2009, the Monuments and Markers program worked with its MMAC and the Central Construction Office of State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails to mark the Historic Mine Trail with interpretive signage. The signage was developed based on the following theme: "The Gold Flakes to Yellowcake Historic Mine Trail illustrates the common boom and bust experiences across time and types of mineral development in Wyoming." A dedication ceremony was held at the Carissa Mine in September 2009 for the new signs along the Mine Trail.

In the spring of 2010, the MMAC approved the nomination for the program's second byway. The **Black Gold Byway** extends through the Salt Creek and Teapot Dome oilfield areas near Midwest and Edgerton. In June 2010, SHPO hired Toxey/McMillan Design Associates (TMDA) to write an interpretive plan and develop interpretive signage and a brochure. The interpretive

"Mine Trails..." (continued on page 6)

Spence Award Announces Winners

The Mining History Association proudly presented the 5th biennial Spence Award during the banquet at the meeting held in Dillon, Montana on June 4. Books published in 2009 and 2010 were eligible for this year's award, and the Spence Committee had a difficult time picking the best book out of the ten very fine entrants. Consequently, the committee selected two books to share the top award and gave a third book a certificate of special recognition.

Ronald H. Limbaugh's *Tungsten in Peace and War, 1918-1946* from the University of Nevada Press and Duane A. Smith's *The Trail of Gold and Silver: Mining in Colorado, 1859-2009* from the University Press of Colorado were the co-winners. Limbaugh's book explores tungsten from its first experimental uses up through its strategic applications during World War II. Limbaugh's early narrative is a general history of tungsten, while the core of the book serves as a case study, focusing on the Nevada-Massachusetts Company. In his review of Colorado mining history, Smith skillfully weaves 150 years of mining into 262 pages, covering the social, political, and economic aspects of the industry. Both books demonstrate excellent use of primary sources. While Limbaugh's research relied on the Segerstrom Collection held at the University of Pacific's Holt-Atherton Library, Smith incorporated the many first-hand accounts he has gathered over a lifetime of researching mining history.

The Spence Committee was honored to recognize Sheila Kelly with an award of special recognition for her book *Treadwell Gold: An Alaska Saga of Riches and Ruin* published by the University of Alaska Press. Kelly's family called Treadwell home and she gives a first-person account, weaving together the stories of the people who worked and lived in Treadwell.

The Mining History Association and the Spence Committee congratulate all three winners, and thank all of the authors, editors, and presses who sent in submissions. The committee is now seeking submissions for the 2013 award. A three-member committee selects the winner based on the high academic standards of the award's namesake, Clark Spence. Spence was one of the Mining History Association's founding members, a professor of history at the University of Illinois from 1961-1990, and author of a number of books. Spence's books set the standard for the award, which include outstanding research, interpretation, and writing. The award is valued at \$500, given either to an individual author, or split when there is a tie.

For a book to be considered for the Spence Award, please send three copies to David A. Wolff, 301 Yellowstone Pl., Spearfish, SD 57783.

Minnesota Mining History Can Be Found Online

Minnesota Reflections (reflections.mndigital.org) has a collection of nearly 62,000 images and documents shared by more than 120 cultural heritage organizations across the state. This site offers a variety of resources on Minnesota's history for researchers, educators, students and the public. A recent search on "mining" came up with over 2400 hits including hundreds of wonderful historic photographs of iron mines on the Mesabi Range. One single item, an Oliver Iron Mining Company plat book, contained dozens of historic mine maps including those from the Soudan Mine visited by the MHA in 2008.

The Minnesota Museum of Mining in Chisholm was also visited during the 2008 Conference (www.mnmuseumofmining.org). The museum has a large collection of historic photographs covering over a century of mining history. Dozens of these images are online at the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition's Minnesota Reflections website.

Abandoned Mine Lands Focus of Hearing

MHA member Mike Kaas calls our attention to an interesting and detailed set of recent hearing testimonies for proposed legislation for the cleanup of abandoned mine land (AML) sites, especially hardrock sites not covered by funding from existing AML fees on coal production. He notes the wide range of individuals providing testimony, representing a spectrum of interests concerned about mining, including government officials, agency managers, industry group representatives, and environmentalists. AML cleanup is important to anyone interested in mining history. The value of eliminating serious safety and environmental hazards at old mining and mineral processing sites is obvious. However, some reclamation efforts have removed any trace of historical mining, and others have failed to preserve features that have both historic and touristic values. MHA members are encouraged to learn more about the complex issues concerning reclamation and preservation, and these hearings offer a wide range of views. The web page detailing the July 14, 2011 hearing, which contains links to the testimonies, is:

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=250281>

MHA Authors...

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democracy. During the 1930s and 1940s, the coal miners emerged as a powerful social and political base that came to be seen as a threat to existing hierarchies and interests. At the end of World War II, a centrist president elected with Communist backing brutally repressed the coal miners in "the Great Betrayal," ushering Cold War politics into Chile with force. The patriotic fervor and tragic outcome of the coal miners' participation in Popular Front coalition politics left an important legacy for those who would continue the battle for greater social justice in Chile in coming decades.

Terry S. Reynolds, and Virginia P. Dawson, *Iron Will: Cleveland-Cliffs and the Mining of Iron Ore, 1847-2006* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2011), 351 pages; cloth: \$44.95, ISBN: 978-0-8143-3511-6.

This book is a history of Cleveland-Cliffs, the only surviving independent American iron mining company and a company that played a major role in the opening and development of the internationally important Lake Superior iron mining district. On a larger canvas, the volume tells the story of that district--which has supplied nearly 75% of all American iron ore since the 1880s--through the lens of one of the major companies operating there. It simultaneously offers a view of major transitions in the history of the American iron and steel industry from the perspective of a raw materials supplier. The work is well illustrated and based on extensive archival research, supplemented by interviews with company personnel for the more recent decades.

Duane A. Smith, Karen A. Vendl, and Mark A. Vendl, *Colorado Goes to the Fair: World's Columbian Exposition, 1893* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2011) 192 pages; softcover: \$29.95 ISBN: 978-0826350411.

In many ways the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, more popularly known as the Chicago World's Fair, symbolized the American people's belief that today's glory and tomorrow's future rested with them, their country, and their democracy. The Fair aroused patriotism, pride, and a sense of achievement in almost all Americans, yet 1893 proved a troubling year for the U.S. and for the young state of Colorado in particular. The repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act created labor tension in the Colorado mines and contributed to a devastating national depression that would have a lingering impact on Colorado for years. In this lavishly illustrated text, the authors trace the glory of the World's Fair and the impact it would have on Colorado, where Gilded Age excess clashed with the enthusiasm of westward expansion.

Mine Trails...

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theme identified by TMDA for the mine byway will be: "Although windblown sage, a few pump jacks, and jack rabbits are all that meets the eye today, this sparsely populated land made an impact of historic proportions on the economy and society of Wyoming."

This theme will guide the development of all interpretive media. The interpretive plan for the Black Gold Byway was approved and accepted by the MMAC in April of 2011. During the summer of 2011, TMDA will develop both interpretive signage and brochures. These will be completed and ready for MMAC review in November of 2011. Installation of interpretive signage is planned for spring and summer of 2012, with a dedication ceremony being planned for summer 2012.

The *Sheridan County Historic Mine Byway* was nominated by the Sheridan Community Land Trust and approved by the MMAC in April of 2011. The Byway is located on public roads and travels north of Sheridan, passing by Dietz, Acme, Carneyville, Monarch, and near Kooi. Along the Byway, there is still physical evidence of foundations and tailings associated with the mines and communities of Dietz, Kooi, and Carneyville. Several of the mines and communities have left more visible testaments to their existence, including mine entryways, a town water tower, Catholic church, and two cemeteries associated with the town of Monarch, and a remaining power plant and water tower at the former townsite of Acme.

TMDA will write the interpretive plan for the Sheridan County Historic Mine Byway as well. This plan will be completed by November 2011.

Questions or comments about the Wyoming Historic Mine Trail and Byway program can be sent to Laura Nowlin, Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator, at 2301 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY, 82001, or laura.nowlin@wyo.gov, or 307-777-6179.

Future MHA Meetings

Prescott, Arizona: June 7-10, 2012

Galena, Illinois: June 6-9, 2013

Trinidad, Colorado: June 5-8, 2014

FINAL Call for Papers

2012 Mining History Association Annual Conference

The Mining History Association will meet in historic Prescott, Arizona, June 7-10, 2012. The Program Committee invites proposals for individual presentations 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. **In recognition of the 100th anniversary of statehood for Arizona and New Mexico, presentations addressing the last century (or more) of mining in the Southwest are especially welcome.**

Proposals should include title of presentation, an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each presentation, plus biographical information about each presenter, including mailing/email address. Please note, speakers must register for the conference in order to give their presentations. **Please send the written proposals to the program sessions committee chair by November 15, 2011.** Submission by email attachment is preferred.

Bob Metz, Program Sessions Chair
1729 Desert Vista Drive
Tucson, AZ 85748
ramgeo@cox.net

MHA Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

The MHA Nominating Committee is responsible for setting up MHA elections. We need your help! Are you, or someone you know, willing to serve the MHA as a member of the council or one of the standing committees? Do you want to propose the nomination of a fellow member for office? Many MHA positions require only modest amounts of time plus attendance at our annual meeting. Please email the Nominating Committee (care of Eric Nystrom, eric.nystrom@rit.edu), or write to us: MHA Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 552, Sedalia, CO 80135.

Nominating Committee Members

Bill Wahl (2009-2012)
Eric Nystrom (2010-2013)
Peter Maciulaitis (2011-2014)

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First Class Mail

Upcoming Events

9th International Mining History Congress

April 17-20, 2012
Johannesburg, South Africa
<http://imhc.co.za>

2012 Mining History Association Conference

June 7-10, 2012
Prescott, AZ

Western History Association Conference

Oct. 4-7, 2012
Denver, CO
<http://www.westernhistoryassociation.org>

2013 Mining History Association Conference

June 6-9, 2013
Galena, IL

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*. The MHA is an organization of individuals interested in the history of mining and metallurgy. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Newsletter Editor Eric Nystrom at the MHA address or by email: eric.nystrom@rit.edu.

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 Winter issue: November 15

Change of Address: Please send all address changes to Diane Dudley, Membership Chair, at:

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