



Spring 2012

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

"The Look"

Most of us probably know "the look." You know; that quizzical or, perhaps, bemused look that is often accompanied by the questions, "You're going where, to do what?" Clearly, the average "Joe" or "Jane" has little comprehension of what motivates us to head off to some obscure camp every June to chew over mining history for the better part of a week. You would stand a better chance of a knowing nod were you to announce your departure for Iceland to listen to three-days-worth of presentations on runic alphabets.

Mining has, over the years, largely lost prominence -- even relevance -- in the thinking of the ordinary American. And, over that time, we have surrendered much of our collective cultural memory of this crucial industry. It is not particularly surprising, then, that the pursuit of mining history would seem an arcane and eccentric bafflement.

So, why do we do it? How do you answer the question that almost invariably follows the first (above): "How on earth did you ever get interested in that?"

I clearly recall Duane Smith's Presidential Luncheon address at our 1995 Conference in Nevada City, California. Duane exhorted us to be happy about studying mining history. How lucky we all are, he said, to be delving into such a rich and varied subject matter, spangled with risk and reward, technological innovation, social change and upheaval, and an array of unique personalities perhaps unmatched in any other field of endeavor. Dig in, he urged, and smile!

He is right, of course, and this is something all of us have known for quite some time. Few other "brands" of history stand so confidently astride the broad sweep of significant issues, events, economics and people of the past as does ours. There is little we don't touch, little that isn't "fair game." The spectrum of mining history is extraordinarily colorful and bright.

But, again, that is completely lost on most folks. A few may have visited a tour mine once upon a time, and may vaguely remember trying to pan "gold" from a trough or some story about the driller putting his thumb over the end of the steel to signal the guy with the jack to check his swing. But it is unlikely that even our best efforts will bring anything more than bits and pieces of real mining history to the masses in any meaningful way. No matter how we meet the questions that always seem to accompany "the look," it is improbable we will provide wholly satisfying answers or proselytize many -- if any.

In spite of that, we should -- as Duane counseled -- be happy. Expect "the look" as you plan for the Prescott meeting. Answer questions. But, even if you fail to elicit anything more than a bemused smirk or shake of the head, be ready -- when June rolls around -- to dig in, and smile.

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History and More Awaits MHA in Prescott

Arizona will celebrate its centennial of statehood in 2012. The Mining History Association will join the celebration by holding its 23rd Annual Conference in Prescott (pronounced *press-kit*), Arizona's first and two-time Territorial Capital (1864-1867, 1877-1889).

The conference venue is the Prescott Resort and Conference Center (www.prescottresort.com). It is probably the finest hotel in the area with nice extra facilities such as a salon and spa, fitness facility, and indoor pool and Jacuzzi. For those who haven't learned that mining is a gamble (or have been lucky) there is also a casino next door.

Prescott is the county seat of Yavapai County. Courthouse Plaza is the setting for community events, outdoor entertainment, and arts and crafts shows. Nearby is historic Whisky Row whose saloons once catered to cowboys and, no doubt, miners. The town boasts over 800 structures on the National Register of Historic Places. Hiking, biking, horseback riding, golf, and the zoo are a few of the outdoor options for visitors.

There are three outstanding museums in Prescott, two of which are in the downtown area. The Sharlot Hall Museum (www.sharlot.org) is the premier historical museum of northern Arizona. The Smoki Museum (www.smokimuseum.org) has renowned exhibits of Native American culture. The Phippen Museum (www.phippenartmuseum.org) featuring the art and heritage of the American West is located a few miles out of town on AZ-89.

Nearby Jerome will be the site of the Friday afternoon field trip, but there is plenty to see that the field trip won't be able to cover. Driving time from the Prescott Resort to Jerome is approximately one hour each way. Weekends in Jerome are extremely crowded but participants may want to return to Jerome on Monday if they wish to see more. The Jerome Historical Society's museum (www.jeromehistoricalsociety.com/museum.html) in downtown Jerome is definitely a "must see." There are a lot of boutiques, art galleries, and restaurants, all ready, willing, and able to serve the tourist.

Those arriving early or staying over after the conference have several sightseeing options. Montezuma Castle National Monument (www.nps.gov/moca), near Camp Verde on I-17, has a high-rise Indian cliff dwelling. Tuzigoot National Monument (www.nps.gov/tuzi) north of Cottonwood has an Indian pueblo complex. The Clemenceau Heritage Museum (www.clemenceaumuseum.org) in Cottonwood has outstanding exhibits primarily pertaining to the United Verde Extension mine and smelter. It has a model of all the railroads and aerial trams that once served the area. The museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. A special visit can be arranged for Monday, June 11, 2012. Those interested should contact Bill Hawes (address on p. 7).

Clarkdale was at one time a model planned community, built by William A. Clark to house smelter employees. It is worth driving around for a trip through the past to see how things were almost 100 years ago. The Verde Canyon Railroad (www.verdecanyonrr.com) departs Clarkdale for a scenic 20 mile ride along the Verde River. Weekend reservations may have to be made months ahead, and weekdays still require advance reservations.

Sedona and its famous red rocks are located about an hour and a half from Prescott. The drive on AZ-89A from Prescott to Flagstaff, through Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon, is one of the major scenic drives in Arizona. Grand Canyon National Park (www.nps.gov/grca) is also an easy full-day trip. Those interested in doing so are reminded that gasoline, food, and lodging are a lot more reasonable in Prescott than at Grand Canyon or Williams.

For those driving to Prescott from the east on I-40, the mining museum in Grants, NM is a "must see" (www.grants.org). It tells the story of the uranium boom in the area. The Petrified Forest National Park (www.nps.gov/pefo) is located east of Holbrook, AZ. A little west of Winslow, AZ is the Meteor Crater (www.meteorcrater.com). The visitor's center is well done. The crater and its discoverer, Daniel M. Barringer, were the subject of a paper presented at the MHA meeting in Silver City, NM.

Sunday Trip: Bagdad

Bagdad is a modern, large scale copper/molybdenum operation "at the end of the road." Upon arrival at Bagdad, there will be a brief orientation at the Freeport McMoRan training center and a 20-minute talk on the history of Bagdad by Richard Travis. Following this talk, we will tour the open pit, shops and SX-EW operations. (Due to ongoing construction, we will not be able to visit the mill.) Lunch will be at Bagdad. For those who didn't get to go to Morenci when MHA met in Globe, here is your second chance to see a modern, large scale mine and see the world's oldest operating SX-EW plant. For those who did see Morenci, you will want to see how a very low grade deposit is worked, resulting in one of the more profitable units in Freeport McMoRan's domestic operations.

Prescott: About Time!

Please note that Arizona is on Mountain Standard Time year-round (no Daylight Savings Time). As a result, Prescott will be synchronized with Pacific Daylight Time during the meeting -- folks arriving from the Pacific Time Zone will not need to reset their watches. Visitors from Montana, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and other Mountain Time Zone states will need to go back one hour, visitors from the Central Time Zone will go back two hours, and those from the Eastern Time Zone will wind their watches back three hours.

Renew MHA Dues With Conference Registration

If you are attending our Annual Conference, you can easily join or renew your membership on the Conference Registration Form on page 7. (The mailing label indicates the calendar year through which your dues are paid.) Your careful attention to dues payment helps save the MHA money for reminders -- Thank you!

Selected Readings on Prescott-Area Mining

William P. Blake, "The Copper-Deposits of Copper Basin, Arizona, and their Origins," *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers* 17 (1888-1889): 479-485. <http://archive.org/stream/transmining17amer#page/479/mode/1up>

John F. Blandy, "The Mining Region Around Prescott, Arizona," *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers* 11 (1882-1883): 286-291. <http://archive.org/stream/transmining11amer#page/286/mode/1up>

Robert C. Bogart, *Some Talk About a Copper Mine: A History of Bagdad, Arizona* (Prescott, Ariz.: Ralph Tanner Associates, 1990).

Aliza Caillou, *Experience Jerome and the Verde Valley: Legends and Legacies* (Sedona, Ariz.: Thorne Enterprises, 1990).

Eric L. Clements, *After the Boom in Tombstone and Jerome, Arizona: Decline in Western Resource Towns* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2003).

Waldemar Lindgren, *Ore Deposits of the Jerome and Bradshaw Mountains Quadrangles, Arizona, U.S.* Geological Survey Bulletin 782 (Washington: GPO, 1926).

Richard F. Pape, "Big Bug Lead-Zinc District," in *The History of Mining in Arizona*, vol. 1, ed. J. Michael Canty and Michael N. Greeley (Tucson, Ariz.: Mining Club of the Southwest Foundation, 1987), 77-98.

Herbert V. Young, *They Came to Jerome: The Billion Dollar Copper Camp* (Jerome, Ariz.: Jerome Historical Society, 1972).

Herbert V. Young, *Ghosts of Cleopatra Hill: Men and Legends of Old Jerome* (Jerome, Ariz.: Jerome Historical Society, 1964).

Attention Vendors!

The Mining History Association is an organization of individuals from the United States and other countries with a common interest in all aspects of mining history. Normally our meetings attract up to 150 visitors, not including speakers and other participants from the local area. During our 3-day meeting in Prescott in June 2012, many visitors will be interested in mining-related books, artifacts, specimens and other collectible material, especially but not exclusively about Arizona and Southwestern mining regions. **On Friday and Saturday, a limited number of vendor tables will be available at \$25 per table in a secure location in or adjacent to the conference room** where most of the proceedings will be held.

Table space will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. Interested vendors with relevant material should contact **Bob Weldin** at: minersquest@comcast.net or (509) 327-2897.

Mining History of the Prescott Area

Prescott is literally surrounded by mining history. Conference tours and field trips will visit the famous Jerome and Bagdad mining areas. Other historic areas are available for independent exploration.

Like many mining areas of the American West, gold was discovered in creeks in the Agua Fria River Basin near Prescott in 1863. Joseph Walker and a party of prospectors had set out from the California gold fields, possibly fleeing from conscription in the Confederate or the Union Army during the Civil War. They found gold placers and, shortly afterward, lode deposits. These discoveries were in what collectively became the Big Bug Mining District a few miles southeast of Prescott.

When the railroad arrived around 1898 transportation of equipment, minerals, and people became easier and cheaper. Gold, silver, lead, and/or copper were produced from several famous mines including the Poland, McCabe, Silver Belt, Little Jessie, Henrietta/Big Bug, Blue Bell, Boggs/Iron Queen, and Iron King. Several smelters were also built in the area. The World War I era saw the greatest production from the district; however, the post-war drop in metal prices caused many mines to close. The Iron King was the last of the major mines in the district. After a series of different owners, it was operated by the Shattuck-Denn Mining Company from 1942 until it closed in 1969.

Prospectors staked claims in the Jerome District in 1876. In 1882 the United Verde Copper Company was formed and mining started. The rich oxidized ores produced copper, gold, and silver. Transportation costs were very high until William A. Clark of Butte, Montana fame bought the company and brought the railroad to Jerome. The United Verde Mine prospered and became the largest copper mine in the territory. The original smelter built on unstable ground adjacent to the mine was replaced by a larger, more efficient one in Clarkdale.

In 1912, the Little Daisy Mine near the United Verde was purchased by James S. ("Rawhide Jimmy") Douglas. In 1914 and 1916 rich ore bodies were discovered. A smelter was built in Clemenceau near the current town of Cottonwood. The United Verde Extension Mining Company mined out the extension in 1930. Phelps-Dodge purchased the United Verde and operated an open pit until mining ceased in 1953. Today, the Douglas Mansion adjacent to the Little Daisy Shaft is part of the Jerome State Historic Park. Jerome was designated a National Historic District in 1967. Many of the historic buildings in Jerome have been converted to shops and eateries catering to tourists. The Jerome Historical Society Museum occupies one of the buildings.

The Bagdad Mining District is located about 40 miles west of Prescott. It has a rich history of mining including such famous mines as the Old Dick, Copper King, Copper Queen, and the Hillside among others. The Bagdad deposit was discovered in 1862 and the claims were patented in 1889. It was owned by a series of companies. Exploration drilling was started in 1919 and the first mill was constructed in 1928. During World War II, a 2000 ton per day mill was constructed with funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

In the late 1940s, the underground mine using block caving was converted to an open pit. It is one of the oldest mines using solvent extraction and electrowinning (SX/EW) to recover copper. (Ranchers' Bluebird Mine and plant, the first SX-EW operation, was demolished as it was incorporated into a larger operation.) The town of Bagdad is a company town. In 1973 the Bagdad Copper Corp. merged with the Cyprus Mines Corp. to form the Cyprus Bagdad Copper Company. It later became part of Phelps-Dodge. As a result of the 2007 merger, the mine is now operated by Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Corporation.

Prescott-Area Lodging

The Prescott Resort and Conference Center is the home of the annual conference and the MHA's preferred hotel in Prescott. See www.prescottresort.com for details about the facility. Reservations can be made by calling **1-800-96PINES** or (928) 776-1666. Be sure to mention the MHA for the group rate of \$91.00 per night.

Other nearby hotels/motels:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Forest Villas Hotel | (928) 717-1200 |
| Hampton Inn | (928) 443-5500 |
| Holiday Inn Express | (928) 445-8900 |
| Marriott Residence Inn | (928) 775-2232 |
| Wyndham Garden | (928) 777-0770 |

Mining History Association

Annual Meeting June 7-10, 2012

Prescott, Arizona

THURSDAY JUNE 7

- 12:00-5:30 Registration at the **Prescott Resort**, 1500 State Route 69
- 2:00-4:00 Council Meeting at the Prescott Resort, room TBA
- 6:00-7:30 Welcome Reception at the Sharlot Hall Museum, 415 W. Gurley St.
Opening of 22nd Mining History Association Meeting, **Mark Langenfeld**, MHA President 2011-12
 Featuring songs about local mining history by MHA member Robert Gibney in the Gazebo at Sharlot Hall Museum

FRIDAY JUNE 8

- 7:30-12:00 Registration at Prescott Resort Ballroom
- 8:00-12:00 Book displays and vendors at Prescott Resort Ballroom
- 8:00-8:20 Session 1: Welcome and Introduction
Mark Langenfeld, MHA President 2011-2012
Bill Hawes, Conference Organizer, *Conference Overview*
Bob Metz, Program Chairman, MHA 2012
Allen Muma, Jerome Historical Society
- 8:20-9:40 Session 2: Arizona Centennial
 Chair: **Jay Fell**, MHA Treasurer
Mike Canty and **Mike Greeley**, *The History of Mining in Arizona*
George Smith, *Red Treasure*
Eric Melchiorre, *Arizona Placer Gold*
Robert Palmquist and **Anne Collier**, *The Case of the Intervenor & Last Decision Mines, 1881, Tombstone, AZ*
- 9:40-10:00 Break
- 10:00-11:20 Session 3: Southwest Centennial
 Chair: **Bob Metz**, 2012 Program Chair
Mike Canty and **J. Kitchel**, *The Douglas Family in Arizona*
Terry Humble, *A Brief History of Santa Rita del Cobre*
Paul Bartos, *The Technological History of SX-EW*
Paul Lindberg, *Jerome Overview*
- 11:20-11:50 Break and Load Buses for Jerome Field Trip (Box lunches on bus.)
 Arrive at Jerome approximately 1:30. One bus will go to the Jerome State Park, other to the United Verde pit area, then buses will switch. State park closes at 5:00. Departure shortly thereafter, returning to the Prescott Resort about 6:30.
- 6:45 Dinner on your own.

SATURDAY JUNE 9

- 8:00-3:30 Registration at Prescott Resort Ballroom
- 8:00-3:30 Book displays and vendors at Prescott Resort Ballroom
- 8:00-9:20 Session 4: The West--I
 Chair: **Mike Canty**
Rudy Davison, *You Should Be Dead, But Somehow You Managed to Survive: A Compendium of Near Mining Tragedies in the Telluride Area During the Twilight of High Grade Mining, 1908-1912*
Ginny Kilander, *Contributions of David W. Brunton*
Eric Nystrom, *Marking up a Mine Map: A Visual History of Thinking About the Underground*
Arielle Gorin, *"To Be Known and Read of all Men"*
- 9:20-9:40 Break
- 9:40- 11:20 Session 5: The West--II
 Chair: **Teresa Houser**, MHA Research Grant Recipient
Richard Francaviglia, *Charcoal Kilns of the West*
Peter Maciulaitis, *The Illusive Alice*
Douglas Thayer and David Thayer, *The Aerial Tramways of the Old Hundred Mine, San Juan County, Colorado*
Brian Leech, *Undermined: Sidewalks, Depressions, Sinking Houses and Mine Subsidence Debates in Butte MT, 1940-1990*
Richard Lingenfelter, *Ores and Profits in the Mines of the American West*
- 11:30-1:00 Presidential Luncheon
 Passing of Presidential Rock Pick: **Mark Langenfeld**, MHA President 2011-12
Bob Spude, MHA President 2012-13
 Presidential Lecture: *Arizona's Copper Centennial*
- 1:10-2:10 Session 6: Mining in Distant Areas
 Chair: **Arielle Gorin**, MHA Research Grant Recipient
Domingo Carvajal, *The Future of Historic Mining Towns*
Catherine H. Spude, *The Archeology of Gold Mining in the Far North*
Ariane Mak, *Miners, Boys & Bevin Boys: Conscription and the Coal Mines in Wartime Britain*
- 2:30-3:30 Session 7: Social and Cultural History of Mining Places
 Chair: **Eric Clements**, editor, *Mining History Journal*
Teresa Houser, *Native Americans and Coal Mining in the Powder River Basin*
Tassie Hirschfeld, *The Social History of Tuberculosis and Silicosis in Pitcher, OK*
Mark Langenfeld, *Galena, Illinois: 2013 MHA Conference Site*
- 3:45-5:15 Business Meeting (ALL MHA members welcome!)
- 6:30-8:00 MHA Awards Banquet at Prescott Resort
 Banquet Moderator: **Bob Spude**, MHA President 2012-13, *The MHA Awards Program*
 Featured Presentation: **Jeremy Rowe**, *Stereoscopic Documentation of Mining in Territorial Arizona*

SUNDAY JUNE 10

- 8:30-4:30 Post-Conference Field Trip to Bagdad, Arizona

MHA 2012 Conference Registration Form

Prescott, Arizona -- June 7-10, 2012

Your Name (for badge): _____

Spouse/Partner Name
(for badge): _____

Other Name (for badge): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip/Country: _____

Email / Telephone: _____

Please list me in the conference packet

I am a current member (2012 on mailing label)

| Event | Cost per Attendee | Number Attending | Total per Event |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Conference Registration: <i>Members = \$60, Non-Members = \$70, Spouse/Partner = \$5, Children (w/adult) = \$5, Single Day = \$30</i> | \$60 / \$70 \$5 / \$30 | | |
| MHA Annual Membership (U.S. / International) | \$25 / \$35 | | |
| Thursday Reception at Sharlot Hall Museum | \$20 | | |
| Friday Tour to Jerome (incl. box lunch) | \$50 | | |
| Saturday Presidential Luncheon (salad, Santa Fe chicken, dessert) | \$23 | | |
| Saturday Awards Banquet (circle choice): Braised Salmon / Prime Rib / Vegetarian | \$39 | | |
| Sunday Tour to Bagdad (incl. lunch) | \$50 | | |
| Total Payment | | | |

For additional conference information, contact **Bill Hawes**:

(928) 772-1669
hardrockhawes@msn.com

Make checks payable to: *Mining History Association*
(payments in U.S. dollars; Credit Cards **not** accepted)
Mail completed registration form and payment by **May 4** to:

MHA Prescott 2012
c/o Bill Hawes
P.O. Box 501
Humboldt, AZ 86329

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 552
Sedalia, CO 80135

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

2014 Mining History Association Conference

June 5-8, 2014
Trinidad, CO

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. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Eric Nystrom at the MHA address or by email: eric.nystrom@rit.edu.

Deadlines: Spring issue: February 15
 Summer issue: June 15
 Fall issue: August 15
 Winter issue: November 15

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

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