



June 2007

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

The Language of Mining

As I assume the role of president of the Mining History Association, I realize that my route to becoming a mining historian was quite different from that of other members. I am neither a miner nor a history teacher, but I can say that I am a native speaker of the language of mining; I know the names of the people, the places where they worked, and the tools and processes they used.

My mother was a geologist; my father was a mining engineer and metallurgist. The earliest conversations I overheard as a child in Lead, South Dakota contained words that continue to fascinate me for their sound: breccia, mica, porphyry, schist, headframe, and my favorite of all – counter-current decantation. Who can resist saying that over and over? I learned early on that it is a serious matter to distinguish between Cambrian and Precambrian. At my high school, the football team was called “Gold-diggers” and the publication was the “Nugget.”

For a few years I went away to college and to work in New York before I came home on vacation, met a mining engineer, fell in love, married, and moved to Tayoltita, Durango, Mexico to learn Spanish and another vocabulary of mining: oro, plata, socavon, molino. Then we went to Grants, New Mexico to a uranium mine, where I learned new and more complex terms: solvent extraction, autoclave, geophysics, semi-autogenous grinding, dosimeter. My husband began an openly acknowledged affair with the Radon daughters.

Because I knew how very difficult it is for an adult to acquire a language, when we moved to California I became a teacher of English as a Second Language

to adult refugees in the Oakland Chinatown. This led to doing oral history, and meeting the director of the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California at Berkeley. For years she had looked for someone who knew something about both oral history and mining, and so I was recruited to direct the twenty-year program which produced more than sixty volumes of in-depth interviews documenting the careers of significant figures in twentieth century mining in the American West. In alphabetic order as well as chronological order, the series begins by documenting the career of Horace Albright, who was born in 1890 and had a birthright connection with mining: his grandfathers both came to the California gold districts in 1851. Albright graduated in mining from the University of California in 1912, studied mining law, and went to Washington to work on legislation which established the National Park Service. After serving as first superintendent of Yellowstone Park, he left the service to become president of U.S. Potash and a director of U. S. Borax.

The final volume in the series to date documents the career of Roy Woodall, who received his postgraduate education at Berkeley and went back to his native Australia to locate three world-class mines in new types of ore bodies: the Kambalda nickel deposit, the Yeelirrie uranium deposit, and the copper-uranium-gold deposit that became the Olympic Dam Mine. His career exemplifies twenty-first century themes of globalization, scientific exploration, health and environmental concerns, and relations with indigenous populations. This archive comprising nearly one hundred interviews is available at <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/mining/>, and should be helpful to members of MHA as they do

(Continues on page 4)

Minnesota - The North Star State



Mark Your Calendar!

MHA 2008

Minnesota Iron Range

June 12-15, 2008

Join the Local Arrangements team for a tour of Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range, the birthplace of open pit mining and Longyear's first test of his famous diamond drill. The conference will be anchored at the Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm, with hotel accommodations in both Chisholm and Hibbing.

Features for Mining Die-Hards:

The Ironwood Discovery Center is both a heritage site and interpretive complex, located alongside the Glen-Godfrey mine pit (a restored electric trolley provides excursions to the remains of the Glen townsite, partially lost to the encroaching mine pit).

Local tours are likely to include the state-owned Hill Annex open pit mine, the Hull Rust Mahoning overlook and the Minnesota Museum of Mining. Optional tours will include a corporate mine tour and the opportunity to tour the state-owned Soudan Underground Mine in the nearby Vermillion Iron Range.

Lauded as the best public underground mine tour in North America, the Soudan mine includes extensive surface operations including a rock crusher and operating hoist, a 2,700-foot descent in a two-level man cage (dubbed the "death car" by Jane Nordberg), and an underground train ride into the mine's historic workings. Conference planners are also investigating the possibility of visiting the University of Minnesota's underground neutrino laboratory on the mine's 27th level.

Heritage Tourism Sites:

Other heritage tourism sites in conjunction with the conference might include Minnesota's third iron-mining district, the Cuyuna Range to the south of Chisholm-Hibbing, or perhaps a few days in the beautiful lakeside city of Duluth with its operating pocket ore docks (best viewed from a tour boat along Duluth's inner harbor).

The tired of mining (never!) can tour the Greyhound Bus Museum or visit Bob Dylan's boyhood home, both in Hibbing. Let's not forget hockey -- the world's largest hockey stick is photograph-worthy, just outside the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in Virginia, Minnesota. The Chisholm-Hibbing area is temperate. Expect June temperatures in the low 70s with nighttime temps in the lower 50s. Bring an umbrella or a raincoat, and a little bug spray.

Need more information? Contact conference hosts Erik & Jane Nordberg at enordber@mtu.edu or Mark Langenfeld at mlangen@execpc.com. More tourism information can be found from the Iron Trail Convention and Tourism Bureau at www.irontrail.org. See you next year in the Land of 10,000 Lakes (and quite a few iron mines!)

Call For Presentations

19th Annual Mining History Association Conference June 12-15, 2008

**Ironworld Discovery Center
Chisholm, Minnesota**

The program committee (Barbara Clements, Dawn Bunyak, and Pat Clune) for the Leadville conference 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.

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 committee chair by **November 30, 2007**.

Barbara Clements, Program Chair
1851 Woodlawn
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
[mhapers@clemrick.com](mailto:mhapapers@clemrick.com)



Language of Mining

(Continued from page 1)

research on the recent past.

I look forward to serving the Mining History Association, and I see as one of our tasks to provide honest and up-to-date connotations for the language of mining. To the general public, the images of "miner" range from a sentimental story of a ragged bum whose donkey makes a lucky find to a rapacious monster who destroys hillsides and forests, and "mining" is too often seen as either a romantic occupation confined to the Old West or a despicable activity that should be forbidden. The historian's job is to find the factual stories, put them in proper context, and present them to the public. MHA is our forum to offer rational interpretations and definitions of the language of mining.

Lee Swent
MHA President
Palo Alto, California

Membership Chair Needed

The Mining History Association is in need of a membership chair. After seven years of dedicated service, Robert Sorgenfrei of the Colorado School of Mines is stepping down as our membership chair. Thanks Bob, for all your hard work.

The chair is primarily responsible for maintaining the computerized mailing list, creating mailing labels for the newsletter and journal, and publishing the membership directory every two years. In addition, the job includes receiving the association's mail and distributing it as needed.

If you are interested in volunteering for the position, please immediately contact Lee Swent, MHA President, at:

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Palo Alto, CA 94304-2625
(650) 323-1017
eswent@sbcglobal.net

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THE MINING HISTORY JOURNAL



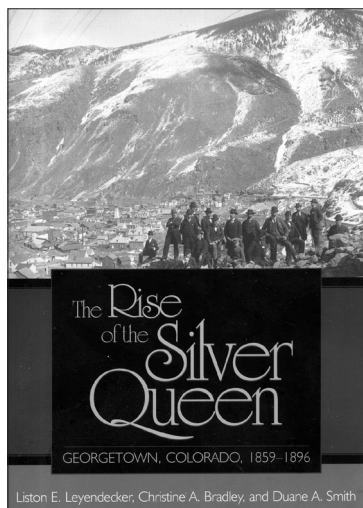
The Twelfth Annual Journal of
The Mining History Association

The Editor of The Mining History Journal invites 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 imbedded 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 should be submitted to:

Eric Clements
Mining History Journal
Southeast Missouri State University
Department of History MS2960
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
eclements@semovm.semo.edu

Clark C. Spence Award

Congratulations to Liston E. Leyendecker, Christine A. Bradley (left), and Duane A. Smith (right) for their *The Rise of the Silver Queen, Georgetown, Colorado, 1859-1896* published by University Press of Colorado, winner of the Clark C. Spence Award for best book in mining history published during 2005-2006. Liston's wife Barbara (center) received the award for him.



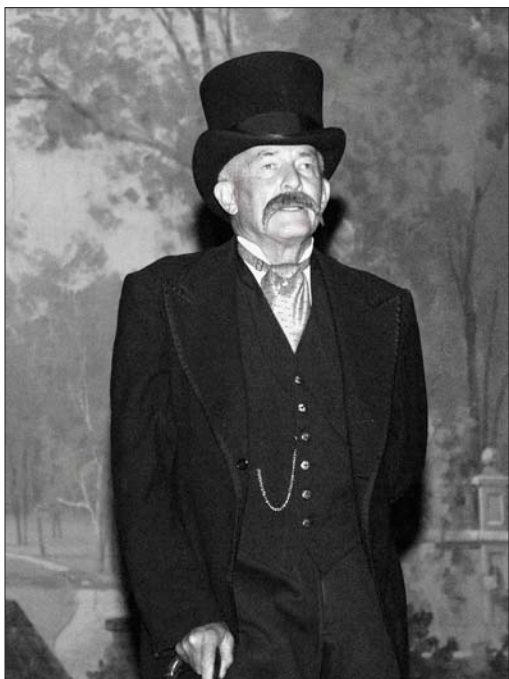
The Clark C. Spence Award Committee of the Mining History Association is now accepting nominations for the best book published on Mining History during 2007-2008. The committee considers books that meet the documentation and narrative standards set by the works of Clark Christian Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

To be considered, the book must focus on the history of a specific mining region, or a mining-related theme or topic, especially within the American West, or an individual or individuals prominent in the history of American mining. There are no temporal limits on subjects. The book must be published either in the year 2007 or 2008. Authors or publishers should send three copies of the nominated work to the Mining History Association office:

Mining History Association
attn: Clark Spence Award
Colorado School of Mines Library
1400 Illinois Street
Golden, Colorado 80401

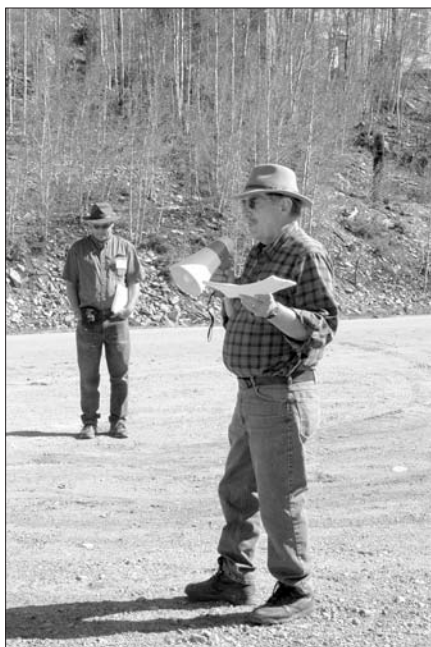
Membership Dues

Please check the mailing label on the back of this newsletter. If 2007 is still on the label, you have not paid your dues for this year. You will be dropped from the membership roll if you do not do so.

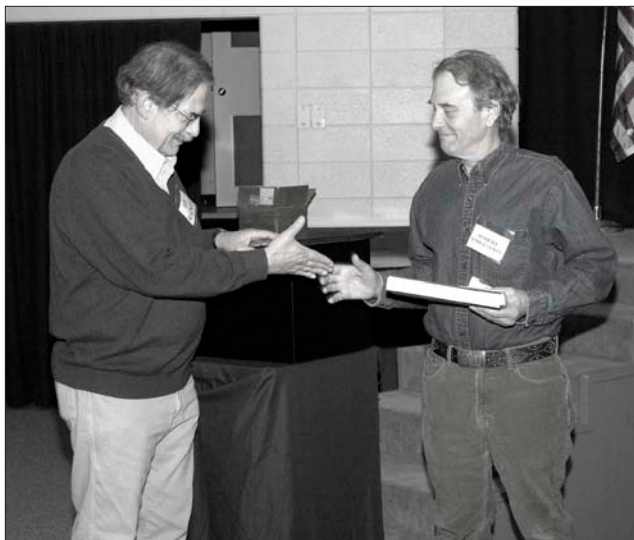


Horace Tabor, aka Duane Smith, at the Tabor Opera House welcoming members to Leadville

2007 MHA Conference Leadville, Colorado



Tour guide Ed Raines on the Sunday field trip



Conference organizer Ed Raines (left) congratulates outgoing membership chair Bob Sorgenfrei for a job well done



Ted Mullings (left) receiving the Cherry Hunter Award from Bob Weldin for the Preservation of Mining History through Art

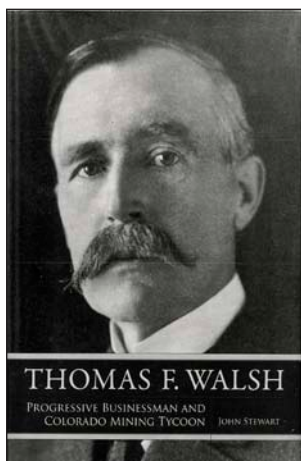


Lunch at the Robert Emmett mine on the Sunday field trip

New Books

Thomas F. Walsh, Progressive Businessman and Colorado Mining Tycoon by John Stewart

Mining the American West Series



Thomas F. Walsh tells the story of one of the West's wealthiest mining magnates—an Irish American prospector and lifelong philanthropist who struck it rich in Ouray County, Colorado.

In the first complete biography of Thomas Walsh, John Stewart recounts the tycoon's life from his birth in 1850 and his beginnings as a millwright and carpenter in Ireland to his tenacious, often fruitless mining work in the Black Hills and Colorado, which finally led to his discovery of an extremely rich vein of gold ore in the Imogene Basin. Walsh's Camp Bird Mine yielded more than \$20 million worth of gold and other minerals in twenty years, and the mine's 1902 sale to British investors made Walsh very wealthy.

He achieved national prominence, living with his family in mansions in Colorado and Washington, D.C., and maintaining a rapport with Presidents McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and Taft, as well as King Leopold II of Belgium.

Despite his fame and lavish lifestyle, Walsh is remembered as an unassuming and philanthropic man who treated his employees well. In addition to making many anonymous donations, he established the Walsh Library in Ouray and a library near his Irish birthplace, and helped establish a research fund for the study of radium and other rare western minerals at the Colorado School of Mines. Walsh gave his employees at the Camp Bird Mine top pay and lodged them in an alpine boardinghouse featuring porcelain basins, electric lighting, and excellent food.

Stewart's engaging account explores the exceptional path of this Colorado mogul in detail, bringing Walsh and his time to life.

John Stewart is an attorney in Denver. He completed a master's degree in history at the University of Colorado at Denver, and is a member of the Mining History Association.

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Upcoming Events

47th Annual Western History Assoc. Conference

October 3-6, 2007
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
<http://www.umsi.edu/~wha/>

7th International Mining History Congress

December 13-16, 2007
Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India
www.imhc2007.com

19th Annual MHA Conference

June 12-15, 2008
Chisholm, Minnesota
www.mininghistoryassociation.org

20th Annual MHA Conference

June, 2009
Creede, Colorado
www.mininghistoryassociation.org

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 Mark and Karen Vendl at MHA address or by email: mkvendl@earthlink.net.

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

Change of address: Please send changes to your address to Robert Sorgenfrei, membership chairman, at:

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