



March 2007

# *Mining History News*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

## Oral History and the Mining History Association

The effort to increase the interest and support of the Mining History Association in oral history will continue at the June 2007 conference in Leadville, Colorado. Fortunately we are able to acquire the services of Barbara Sommer, who was already planning on attending the conference with her husband, at a much-reduced fee. An oral history instructor of outstanding teaching experience and ability, she has agreed to conduct an oral history workshop at our June 2007 Conference.

Ms. Sommer has over twenty-five years experience, and has previously presented oral history workshops for a number of diverse organizations, including the Oral History Association; the American Association for State and Local History; the Organization of American Historians; the University of Nebraska Center for Great Plains Studies; the Midwest Archives Conference; the State Historical Society of North Dakota; Homestead National Monument of America; Oral History in Canada: International Workshop-Conference; and the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. In addition, she is the founder of the Oral History Association of Minnesota (OHAM) and the Nebraska Foundation for the Preservation of Oral History (NFPOH) on how to collect oral histories. In addition she is an author of numerous articles and a book, *The Oral History Manual*, co-authored with Mary Kay Quinlan, Alta Mira Press, 2002, which will be available for purchase at the conference.

Since the last newsletter, I have received two books on oral history of miners which, while decidedly different in their approach and viewpoint,

illustrate the wealth of information on mining and the mining experience that are available through oral history. The first, *Mother Magma: A Memoir of Underground Life in the San Manuel Copper Mine* by Onofre Tafoya, vividly describes the experiences of a Hispanic miner over a period of thirty-eight years. Despite accurately describing the rigors and dangers of underground mining, Tafoya's account is obviously one of a person who formed a bond with his fellow miners and an appreciation, no, pride in being an employee of the company. His account ends, I think sadly for him, with the closing of San Manuel.

The second book, *Hardrock Man: Whispers From Underground, Oral History of Mining "The World's*

(Continues on page 2)



*The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in Leadville, Colorado will host the 18th Annual MHA Conference, June 7-10, 2007. See inside for details.*

## Oral History

(Continued from page 1)

*Greatest Gold Camp* by Sylece Andromeda was sent to me by Ed Hunter, and more accurately depicts the life of the miner as I have learned it. Using the same set of questions, Ms. Andromeda interviewed twenty different miners about their mining experiences. The book not only describes the same rigors and hazards described by Tafoya, but also a life of moving from mine to mine, rather than Tafoya's thirty-eight years in one mine. With few exceptions, it described gold mining rather than copper, but the bond among miners and their pride in a common effort was again a definite thread throughout the book. Two of the questions I found especially interesting are about "Tommyknockers" and "Hi-grading". The almost universal acceptance of "Tommyknockers" was a surprise. I expected some to deny their presence. The equally almost universal acceptance of "Hi-grading" under the guise of "Miner's Collections" was surprising, at least for me. Of particular interest was the company acceptance of the collecting by individual miners. Richard Graeme, in a talk in Tucson recently, also spoke of the acceptance of miner's collections and said that it was not considered stealing "until it was taken the second time".

An entirely different approach to oral history, but one I find particularly intriguing, is the "Miners' Story Project". Coordinated by Shipherd Reed at the

University of Arizona, this is a project which, using a mobile "Story Trailer" with modern technology, is traveling throughout Arizona and New Mexico interviewing miners and recording their stories on audio digital discs. To date they have visited Clifton/Morenci, Safford, San Manuel, Mammoth, Oracle, and Bisbee in Arizona, and Silver City, and the neighboring communities of Bayard, Hurley, Tyrone, and Cliff in New Mexico. Depending on funding, the project plans to visit Globe, Miami, Superior, Jerome, and Ajo in the coming year. They have also made photographs of the interviewees and digital copies of the archival photos when possible. For those interested in those stories, their web site is [www.Minersstory.org](http://www.Minersstory.org).

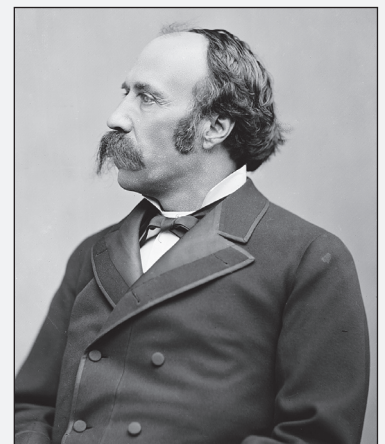
While we (the MHA) may not have a "mobile 'Story Trailer'", we do have members in most of the mining states who could provide the same service. For those interested in learning more about collecting and preserving the stories of miners, we are offering the Oral History workshop in Leadville. The five hour workshop will provide the skills and materials necessary to conduct your own interviews. The workshop time and content are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. ✂

Jim McBride  
MHA President



Join us for...  
***An Evening with Horace Tabor***

Thursday, June 7  
from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
at the  
Tabor Opera House  
Leadville, Colorado



# MHA 2007 Conference Agenda

## Leadville, Colorado

*All activities will take place at the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum except as noted.*

### Thursday, June 7

- 8:00-10:00 p.m. MHA Council meeting
- 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Oral History Workshop (see page 5 for details)
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. Conference Registration  
Explore the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum
- 5:00-7:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception at the Mining Hall of Fame
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. An Evening with Horace Tabor at the Tabor Opera House

### Friday, June 8

- 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Continued Registration
- 8:00-9:00 a.m. First Session  
*Michael Mooney and the Molly Maguires: the Great Leadville Strike of 1880*, James Walsh  
*P.W. Breene, A Leadville Miner, Banker & Politician*, James Laushine  
*The Leadville Exception*, James Andrews
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Second Session  
*James Clinton Wilson & Leadville*, H.DeForest Hardinge  
*First Contact: S.F. Emmons and the USGS in Leadville*, Paul Lucier  
*Pay Dirt in Colorado: A Year in the Life of Ben Stanley Revett and the Twin Lakes Hydraulic Gold Mining Syndicate*, Larry and Carmen Piekenbrock
- 11:00a.m.-noon Third Session  
*Restoration of a Mining Camp - Breckenridge, Colorado*, Paul Johnson  
*San Juan Mining*, David and Douglas Thayer  
*Forgotten Ghosts: Coal Towns of the Colorado Front Range*, Eric Clements
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 1:30-5:00 p.m. Tours (on your own): Matchless mine, Tabor Opera House, Tabor Home, Mineral Belt Trail
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Fourth Session  
*Miner's Candlesticks of Colorado*, Anthony Moon  
*From South Africa to Colorado: The Bedford McNeill Mining Code Book*, Ed Hunter  
*Importance of Historic Mining Maps*, Christopher Thiry
- 3:00-4:00 p.m. Fifth Session  
*History of the Star Mine: One of the Longest Continuously Operated Silver-Lead Mines in Colorado*, Diane Dudley

*A Light in the Darkness: U.S. Mine Lamps and Their Patents Through Time*, Paul Bartos  
*Freemasonry and the Urban Mining Frontier*, Roger Burt

4:30-5:00 p.m. Annual Business Meeting

6:30-9:00 p.m. Awards Banquet, Speaker: Stan Dempsey, *All Roads Led to Leadville*

### Saturday, June 9

8:00-9:00 a.m. Sixth Session

*The Miner's Story Project: Oral History, A New Approach to Historic Outreach*, Shipherd Reed  
*Canada's Crow's Nest Coal Mining District*, Lorry Felske  
*Ore Cars, Old Town, and the Olympics: Mining History and the Modern Resort Industry of Park City, Utah*, Darby Moore-Doyle

9:30-10:30 a.m. Seventh Session

*James Douglas' Letters from the West*, Bill Culver  
*Hubbard & Bowers: A Successful Mining Partnership on the Periphery Arizona Territory*, Mike Dunning  
*Herbert Hoover and the RE-organization of the Mining Industry in the Early Twentieth Century*, Jeremy Mouat

11:00a.m.-11:40a.m. Eighth Session

*Tertiary or Precambrian? Geological Controversies Surrounding the Homestake Mine*, Heather Whitehead  
*Glorified Fishing: The Incredible Life and Career of Mining Engineer Harry C. Dudley*, Lawrence Somner

12:30 -2:00 p.m. Presidential Luncheon

2:30-3:50 p.m. Ninth Session A

*In Search of the Lost Washington Mine*, Richard Hague  
*The Glines Canyon Ideal Stamp Mill (California)*, David Scott  
*The Barnes-Hecker-1926, Michigan's Worst Mine Disaster*, Robert Neil  
*The Cornish Influence in Maryland's Copper and Chrome Mines*, Johnny Johnson

2:30-3:50 p.m. Ninth Session B

*Baby Doe Tabor's Life at the Matchless Mine*, Debra Faulkner  
*Muriel Sibel Wolle's Art & Word Pictures on Mining Towns*, Martha Graham  
*Mining Town Songs*, Paul Malkoski  
*August R. Meyer: St. Louis & Leadville Smelting Tycoon*, Jacqui-Ainley Conley

4:20-5:20 p.m. Tenth Session

*Herbert Hoover's Australian Gold Connection in the Sons of Gwalia Mine*, Rudy Davison  
*Boom and Bust on the Barrier: Ghost Towns in Australia's Wild West*, Barry McGowan  
*Cradle of Gold, Mahad Dahab*, Fan Millsaps

7:00-8:30 p.m. The Leadville Silver Deposits by Ed Raines

### Sunday, June 10

9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Tour of Leadville mines led by Ed Raines. Lunch included. Limit: 45



## Oral History Workshop

Thursday, June 7, 2007  
11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

1. Introduction to oral history; a brief description of what oral history is and its function and importance.
2. Planning the interview; a brief overview of the project planning steps and their importance.
3. A review of legal and ethical procedures, including the use of necessary forms.
4. The interview:
  - A. Preparing for the interview
  - B. Setting up the interview
  - C. Conducting the interview, including short practice interviews
  - D. After the interview
  - E. Processing the interview
5. Archiving the interview.

Each participant in the workshop will receive a booklet containing a description of the workshop topics. In addition it will contain information about suggested recording equipment sources, Institutional Review Board/oral history sources for academics as needed, sample forms, and a short selected bibliography.

The workshop will be presented by Barbara Sommer, an extremely talented and highly experienced instructor with years of experience in conducting oral history workshops for a wide range of activities. Her publications, including *The Oral History Manual* with Mary Kay Quinlan, AltaMira Press, 2002, are recognized throughout the field. Ms. Sommers publications will be available at the workshop. Participation in the workshop will be STRICTLY LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS and the fee will be \$25.00. A box lunch will be available for all participants.

## Conference Vendors

A limited number of vendor spaces will be available at the 2007 MHA Conference for a fee of \$25. Please contact Ed Raines at 303.459.0193 for more information.

### 2007 Election Results

#### Vice President

Ron Limbaugh - Guala, California

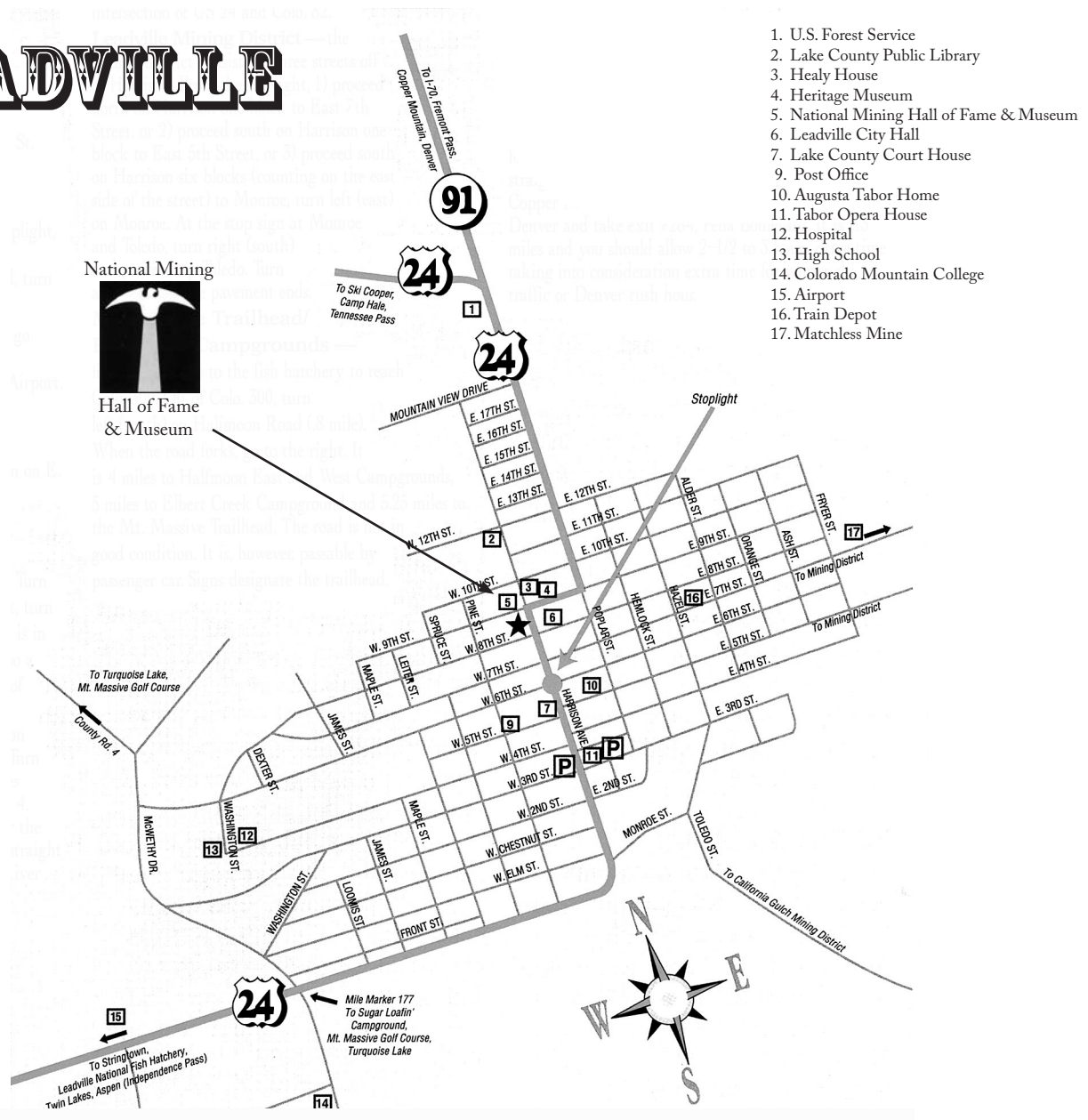
#### Council

Keith Long - Marana, Arizona  
Mark Vendl - La Grange Park, Illinois

#### Nominating Committee

Jeremy Mouat - Athabaska, Alberta, Canada

# LEADVILLE



The following businesses are offering 10% discount for conference attendees:

Delaware Hotel  
700 Harrison Ave.  
Leadville, CO 80461  
800-748-2004  
[www.DelawareHotel.com](http://www.DelawareHotel.com)

Silver King Inn  
2020 North Poplar  
Leadville, CO 80461  
800-871-2610

Columbine Inn & Suites  
2019 North Poplar  
Leadville, CO 80461  
800-954-1110

Apple Blossom Inn  
120 West 4th  
Leadville, CO 80461  
800-982-9279  
[www.appleblossominn.com](http://www.appleblossominn.com)

# MHA 2007 Conference Registration Form

## Attendee Information (please print)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conference Registration

Event	Cost per Attendee	Number Attending	Total per Event
Conference registration (no charge for spouse)	\$75		
Oral history workshop (limited to 25) <i>indicate box lunch choice(s):</i> roast beef _____ turkey _____ ham & cheese _____ veggie _____	\$25		
Meal package, includes: Thursday reception, presidential luncheon, and awards banquet <i>indicate awards banquet dinner choice(s):</i> buffalo ribeye _____ pork tenderloin _____ vegetarian _____	\$90 per adult \$25 per child		
Sunday bus tour (limit 45) <i>indicate box lunch choice(s):</i> roast beef _____ turkey _____ ham & cheese _____ veggie _____	\$25		
Total Payment			

## Payment Information

Make checks payable to: **Mining History Association**  
(all payments must be made in U.S. dollars)  
Mail completed registration form and payment by **May 15** to:

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

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

## First Class Mail

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## Upcoming Events

### **18th Annual MHA Conference**

June 7-10, 2007

Leadville, Colorado

[www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)

### **Western Mining Artifact Collector's Show**

June 16, 2007

Ouray Community Center, Ouray, Colorado

Contact: Steve Rush

(970) 249-6828, [nevsmith@ridgwayco.net](mailto:nevsmith@ridgwayco.net)

### **9th International Cultural Heritage Symposium in Geosciences, Archaeology, Mining and Metallurgy**

September 3 to 7, 2007

Laval University, Quebec City, Canada

contact: Dr. Reginald Auger,

[reginald.auger@celat.ulaval.ca](mailto:reginald.auger@celat.ulaval.ca)

### **7th International Mining History Congress**

December 13-16, 2007

Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India

[www.imhc2007.com](http://www.imhc2007.com)

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](mailto: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:

**Mining History Association**  
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