



September 2007

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

Continuity and Change

As I write this, the Crandall Mine collapse is in the news, and at my morning exercise class, a bright young woman said, "I don't know why they still allow mines."

This latest tragedy points up the fundamental dilemma of mining: it is essential, and risky. Since ancient times, myths and legends abound concerning the lures and dangers of going down into the earth to extract minerals; still, the demands are insatiable, even today. From the *New York Times*, February 27, 2007: "Mining companies around the world are experiencing a shortage of workers as the industry is struggling to meet rapidly growing global demand for iron, copper and other essential commodities ..." As historians, we see the theme repeating, and as human beings, we are terribly saddened.

MHA is eighteen years old, and flourishing in its maturity:

Diane Dudley, succeeding Bob Sorgenfrei as membership chair, reports that we have 336 members: 321 US and 15 international. Thanks to Bob for his good work, and welcome to Diane.

Ed Raines, who organized the conference in Leadville, Colorado, in June, reports that there were over 150 attendees, matching the earlier record set in Cripple Creek.

We were welcomed by Duane Smith's masterful impersonation of Horace Tabor, and Stan Dempsey's keynote address told us that "All Roads Led to Leadville."

Thirty-four papers were presented: several on local Leadville and Colorado mining history, others on mine lamps, Freemasonry, a mining code book, Homestake geology, the Barnes-Hecker disaster in 1926, pictorial art, and mining town songs. We ranged from Canada to South Africa, Utah to Maryland; we met Herbert Hoover, James Douglas, and Baby Doe Tabor. Undeterred by a recent encounter with a bear, Ed is valiantly planning for the 2009 conference in Creede, Colorado. For 2010 and beyond, we seek other historical sites – Alaska, perhaps?

Eric Clements, editor, will soon mail the fifteenth annual *Journal*. Since its inception, one hundred twenty articles have been published, thanks to three capable editors: the late John Townley, Chris Huggard, and Eric Clements, at Southeast Missouri U.

Eric Nystrom, at the Rochester Institute of Technology, is new editor of the quarterly newsletter, succeeding Mark and Karen Vendl, who set a high standard. Mark will continue as web site liaison.

MHA in India: Several MHA members plan to attend the seventh International Mining History Conference in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, December 13-16, 2007.

Deep enough.

--**Lee Swent**
MHA President
Palo Alto, California

MHA Research Grant Program

The Research Grant Program is open to all who are currently engaged in or who plan to conduct mining history research, or who have completed a relevant project and need funding to attend a Mining History Association annual meeting in order to make a presentation on the subject of their research. Eligible persons include academic scholars, public sector professionals in history-related disciplines, independent scholars, graduate students, writers, and educators. MHA does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, age, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis. The Grant Committee, at its discretion, may make up to three grants per year. Funding may vary, up to a maximum of \$750 per grant. The amount of each award will be determined by the Grant Committee on the basis of available funding, the grant criteria as indicated below, and on individual budget priorities.

All completed written and digital materials must be submitted to the Chair of the Mining History Association's Grant Committee and postmarked no later than May 1, 2008. Announcement of the winners will be made as quickly as possible, so that funds may be used in preparation for the 2009 Annual meeting.

Criteria for selection include the following:

1. Clarity of the stated objectives and procedures
2. Quality of the work anticipated and the likelihood that the proposed project will be successfully completed within one year from the time the grant money becomes available
3. Relevance of the research topic to mining history
4. Plans for disseminating the results of the research

To be eligible for funding, applicants must submit the following before the indicated deadline:

1. One complete application form with required attachments, all to be word-processed or typewritten on white background, plus a second copy of all materials on a CD in WORD-PC format. The attachments must include:
 2. A short proposal (maximum of two pages), describing the nature and purpose of the research, the relevance to mining history; the purpose and necessity of the travel, and the sources expected to be consulted (if to a research institution);
 3. A one-page budget with a time frame that itemizes the amounts requested; indicates how, when and where the money will be used; and prioritizes the amounts by order of importance to the project.
 4. A brief vita with personal information relevant to the proposal;
 5. (For scholars without mining history credentials or prior publication) Submit, at a minimum, one letter of recommendation from an established scholar, teacher, or mining business professional who can vouch for the applicant's interests and abilities.
6. Agree to prepare, within one year following a grant award, either a presentation for consideration by the program committee at the MHA Annual meeting, or an article to be reviewed in consideration for publication by the *Mining History Journal*. Some awardees may choose to do both.

2008 MHA Research Grant Application Form

2008 Grants Award Committee

Ron Limbaugh (Chair), Dawn Bunyak, Keith Long, Robert Otto, Robert A. Trennert

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and/or e-mail address: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Title and description of proposed project (no more than 50 words):

Amount of funds requested (maximum \$750) _____

Attach detailed budget, ranking each item in order of importance, and showing anticipated timeline for project from start to completion, including how money will be spent and when.

Send this form, along with the other required materials, plus a second copy of all materials on a CD in WORD-PC format, to Ronald H. Limbaugh, Chair, Mining History Association's Grant Committee, at PO Box 1333, Gualala CA. Phone: 707-785-3814. Email: limbaugh@mcn.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 1, 2008.

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 Minnesota 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
mhapapers@clemrick.com**

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).

Those 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!)

2007 MHA Research Grants Awarded

The Mining History Association Grants Committee is pleased to announce the award of \$500 research grants to Scott F. See and to Renee Ross/Jim McBride for the 2007 cycle.

Scott F. See is a doctoral student in Industrial Heritage and Archaeology Program at Michigan Technical University, Houghton, Michigan. He holds a Masters degree in Industrial Archaeology from MTU and is currently a Research Associate at the J. R. Van Pelt Library at MTU.

Scott's proposal, "Celebrating Iron: Heritage Management on the Iron Ranges of Lake Superior," will assess the state of industrial heritage management on the Lake Superior iron-mining district and identify successful management structures, processes and methods used by existing heritage organizations.

Renee Ross earned a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley in Folklore. She has directed several oral history projects, including "Voices from a Mammoth Copper Ledge: An Oral History of Underground Copper Miners in the Mammoth, Arizona Area." **Jim McBride** holds a doctorate in history from Arizona State University, where he currently serves as an adjunct professor. He is the immediate past president of the MHA and has published numerous items related to mining in the Southwest.

The Ross/McBride proposal is to support research for a co-authored book titled *Deep Enough and Well Timbered: History of the Old Hat Mining District, Pinal County, Arizona*. Established in 1882, the district became notable for its copper, molybdenum and vanadium. The home of several significant mines, the Old Hat District became particularly famous for the San Manuel Copper Mine, the largest underground copper mine in the U.S.

SIA Tours Ely Copper District in September

The Society for Industrial Archeology will convene their 2007 "Fall Tour" at Ely, Nevada, from Sept. 27-30. The tour will include a significant amount of material on mining in White Pine County, tours of the recently reopened Robinson mine, and also an intensive site visit of the remnants from the Nevada Northern Railway. There is information online at <http://www.siahq.org/tours/siatours.html>

--Erik Nordberg

New MHA Yahoo Groups Listserv

I am happy to report that I have set up our own Yahoo Groups site after some members at the recent Leadville conference suggested that we start one. Thanks to Pat Clune and others for their interest.

I encourage you all to join and begin to share information on mining history which is the intent of this list. Certainly there are many of us looking for specific information and hope that this will be a handy vehicle to get answers. We can share photos and files.

I will serve as moderator and if there are any questions please email me at TEX61@AOL.COM. I will leave this list open to anyone to join. However, if we get hit with spam, then I will restrict membership to people that are MHA members and anyone else that I know in the mining history community who may not be MHA members.

Our group address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MiningHistoryAssociation/> -- from there you can sign up, post pictures, view list archives, links, and so on. Or you can send a blank email to MiningHistoryAssociation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and you will get a reply back telling you how to join. To access the Group features on the Website you will need to sign up for a free Yahoo login, if you don't have one already, and the site will show you what to do. If you don't want to sign up for Yahoo, you can still join the mailing list alone. Once you are signed up, an email sent to MiningHistoryAssociation@yahoogroups.com goes to everyone on the list.

And remember that no man is an island. Let's share what we know. Hope to see you online.

--*Jim Besleme*

MHA Committees:

<u>MHA Service Award</u>	Duane Smith	Duane Smith	<u>2008 Conference</u>
Ed Raines, chair	Bob Spude		Erik Nordberg, chair
Ed Hunter	Chris Hesse	<u>Bylaws Committee</u>	Barbara Clements,
Mark Langenfeld		Barbara Clements, chair	program
	<u>MHA Research Award</u>	Ron Limbaugh	<u>2009 Conference</u>
<u>Nominating Committee</u>	Ron Limbaugh, chair	Jim McBride	Ed Hunter, chair
Jim Besleme, chair	Dawn Bunyak	Lee Swent	Ed Raines,
Jeremy Mouat	Keith Long	<u>Publicity</u>	arrangements
Duane Smith	Robert Otto	Barbara Clements, chair	Stan Dempsey
	Bob Trennert	Mark Langenfeld	Bill Wahl
<u>Cherry Hunter Award</u>		Jim McBride	<u>Membership</u>
Bob Weldin, chair	<u>John Townley Award</u>	Bob Weldin	Diane Dudley
Mark & Lynn	Siliva Pettem, chair		
Langenfeld	Jay Fell	<u>Clark Spence Award</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>
Mark & Karen Vendl	James McBride	David Wolf, chair	Eric Nystrom
	Jeremy Mouat	Robert Neil	
<u>Clark Spence Award</u>	Duane Smith	Peter Siems	
David Wolff, chair		Duane Smith	<u>Webmaster liaison</u>
Robert Neil	<u>Rodman Paul Award</u>	Bob Spude	Mark Vendl
Peter Siems	Johnny Johnson		

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First Class Mail

Upcoming Events

47th Annual Western History Assoc. Conference

October 3-6, 2007
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
<http://www.umsl.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 Eric and Rachel Nystrom at the MHA address or by email: eric.nystrom@rit.edu.

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 Diane Dudley, membership chair, at:

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