



Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

A Publication of the Mining History Association

Fall 2019

Presidential Pickings

How did we each find our way to this group we call the Mining History Association? Some of you probably saw a conference announcement in a newsletter or brochure. Others have found us via the Internet and our website. But I am willing to bet that most of you were like us: a friend told us about the group and encouraged us to attend an annual conference. We attended our first MHA conference in 1997 and have been hooked ever since. To continue to grow our membership, there is nothing like the personal touch. We all cross paths with folks in our varied worlds, whether it be in industry, academia, museums, or hobbyist groups who would be good membership prospects. Show them our website, or share a copy of the journal. Better yet, invite them to come to Elko and check us out for themselves.

Here in the prematurely cold and snowy Midwest, we are already looking forward to our conference coming up in Elko. There is information in this newsletter, and on the website to help you start planning. We are going to have some great opportunities to learn more about this present-day boom town, so I hope you will check it out.

Looking beyond Elko, planning is already well underway for our 2021 conference in Birmingham, Alabama. Most people don't think of the Deep South when considering mining history, but it looks like we are going to have a great opportunity to change that perception. I hope that y'all are planning to attend. Even further down the road, we have had suggestions and inquiries for future conferences ranging from Wallace ID (2022 will be the 50th anniversary of the Sunshine Mine fire), Butte, MT, and Pittsburg, KS. These are all viable suggestions. What is needed to get any of them off the ground is someone from MHA to be in on the planning stages. It is this aspect of the process that needs help from you. Do you know someone in these localities that would be a good planner/organizer? Is there someone you know through your professional contacts that might be a good candidate? If there is, please talk to them about MHA. We have a conference planning handbook that we can share, and any of our recent past organizers would be happy to share their insights and experiences.

Deadlines for award nominations are approaching. All of our awards are listed on the website under the "Awards" tab. We occasionally have some that go unawarded because no one submitted a nomination. The process is not difficult, and we all know that there is no shortage of worthy recipients. So if you know of a person or project that you feel is worthy, please nominate them.

Call for Presentations

30th Annual Conference
Mining History Association
Elko, Nevada – June 11-14, 2020

The Program Committee of the MHA invites proposals for individual presentations or complete sessions (including a chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions normally include three papers of twenty minutes each. *All Presenters must register for the conference.*

There are no temporal or geographic limits to topic material. Presentations that address mining history of the Elko County area or Nevada in general are, however, particularly welcome given the location of the Conference.

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 send the written proposals via email attachments to Erik Nystrom (eric.nystrom@asu.edu) by January 1, 2020. Submission by email is required.

Elko Conference Room Block

The conference host hotel is the fully modern **Red Lion Hotel & Casino**. The Red Lion's conference rate starts at a very reasonable \$89.00 per night, plus tax. The number of blocked rooms is limited and the booking window is open. **EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**. Be sure to mention the Mining History Association (Group Code MINI0610) when booking your conference-rate room at the Red Lion.

Red Lion Hotel & Casino
2065 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801
Direct: 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044
Online reservations use Group Code MINI0610 at
<http://www.redlionhotelelko.com/>

Attendees of our 2020 Conference will have the opportunity to learn much more about the area and the mining that has taken and is taking place in and near Elko County and Nevada.

Elko County's El Niño Mine Celebrates with First Gold Pour

People from Nevada and Premier Gold Mines gathered on Sept. 26th at the refinery at the Goldstrike Mine to celebrate the start of production at the El Niño underground mine at South Arturo with a gold pour. The El Niño is in Elko County on the Carlin Trend. Following the pour, they gathered around a gold bar stamped El Niño 1.

El Niño 1 weighed 916.46 troy ounces with an estimated worth of almost \$1.4 million. The Goldstrike Mine pours around 120 gold bars each month using ore from 18 mines.

Pumpkin Hollow to Begin Copper Production

Nevada Copper expects copper production to begin at its nearly completed underground mine near Yerington, NV in Q4. 95,000 mt of development ore has been stockpiled. The ore will be processed at the recently completed processing plant.

Mining History Association Research Grants!!

Competitive research grants are an important way that the MHA encourages important research in mining history. Anyone can apply whether you are a student, scholar, writer, public sector professional, educator, or lover of mining history. Proposals may focus on any aspect of mining, its associated industries, and its communities, no matter what era or geographical location. The Association typically gives out three grants each year. Grant funding varies, up to \$750. Applications and more information is available on our website www.mininghistoryassociation.org. Due Date: May 1, 2020.

Readings and References (Short List) for the 2020 Nevada Conference:

Emmons, William H. 1910. *A Reconnaissance of Some Mining Camps in Elko, Lander, and Eureka Counties, Nevada*. USGS Publication 408, <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/b408>

Hall, Shawn. 1998. *Old Heart of Nevada: Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Elko County, Nevada*. University of Nevada Press, Reno.

Hall, Shawn, 1993. *Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties*. University of Nevada Press, Reno.

Hardesty, Donald. 2010. *Mining Archaeology in the American West: A View from the Silver State*. University of Nebraska Press.

Heitt, Dean. 2019. *Before the Gold: Early History of the Carlin Trend 1874-1961*.

Morris, Jack. 2017. *Going for Gold: The History of Newmont*.

Obermayr, Erich and Robert McQueen 2016. *Historical Archaeology in the Cortez Mining District: Under the Nevada Giant*. University of Nevada Press, Reno.

Paher, Stanley. 1970. *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Howell North. (Still in print and extremely popular).

Attention Potential Conference Vendors

The MHA will be meeting in Elko, NV June 11-14, 2020. On Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13, vendor tables will be available at \$35 per table in a location adjacent to the session rooms.

The Conference attracts people from across the United States and world that are interested in mining books, artifacts and other collectible items. Persons potentially interested in being a vendor for our Conference should contact Richard Reid at richardreid.geo@gmail.com

GETTING READY FOR BIRMINGHAM 2021!

Planning by the local Committee for the MHA Conference in Birmingham, Alabama in June 2021 is well underway. How many MHA members knew that Billings, Montana isn't the only "Magic City"? That's also Birmingham's nickname!

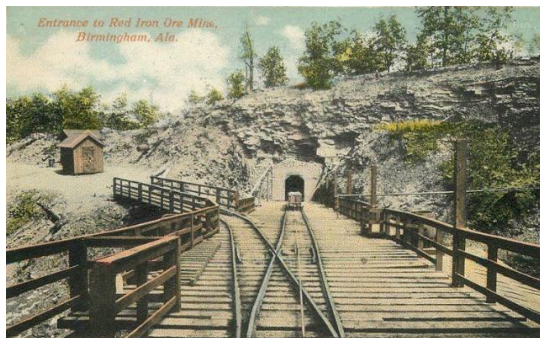
Birmingham and vicinity has much to offer the mining enthusiast—major historic iron mining and cast-iron production, a world-class marble quarry, current and historic coal mining and coking, and more.

Tours are planned to a number of historic sites, including the antebellum iron works at Tannehill and Brierfield State Parks, with the state-of-the-art, 13,000-square-foot Alabama Iron and Steel Museum. More recent (1871-1970's) underground iron mines in Red Mountain and Ruffner Mountain Parks are set in scenic Appalachian ridges. The impressive multi-acre Sloss Furnaces complex, a National Historic Landmark and one of the nation's finest industrial museums, lies within the city limits; we will have a chance to tour and witness an iron pour there.

Coal was an important part of Birmingham's mining heritage, and continues today. We will be able to walk along four rows of historic coke ovens preserved at Blocton. MHA will also visit (and dine at) Vulcan, the world's largest cast-iron statue, and enjoy a panoramic view of Birmingham from atop a historic iron mine! Another tour will visit the historic Gantt's Quarry (ornamental marble) and nearby marble sculpture exhibits, with explanations by sculptors working in marble.

Other cultural opportunities abound in the Magic City. Among them are several historic theaters, the nation's oldest (1910's) professional baseball park at Rickwood Field, the downtown Civil Rights District, Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, and the Southern Museum of Flight. The city's growing "foodie" reputation is well-displayed at Five Points South and the Uptown District.

MHA 2021 will be different! This under-appreciated gem of mining history has something for every mining-history buff.



1910's iron mine at Red Mountain.



Sloss Furnaces.



Alabama Iron and Steel Museum.

MHA Inaugurates the John Livermore Award

The John Livermore Award was approved by MHA Council at the June, 2019, annual meeting in Marquette, Michigan. This new award will be given to recognize individuals, contractors, suppliers, and companies that have gone beyond what was required to preserve, reclaim, conserve, and/or document mining heritage and the natural environment surrounding mining operations.

Appropriately, the new award will be initially presented at the MHA's Elko conference in June, 2020. In the early 1960s, John Livermore and Alan Coope's geologic fieldwork, undertaken while employed by Newmont Mining, led to the discovery of the Carlin Gold Mine. This event and work by United States Geological Survey geologists helped usher in exploration efforts by many companies and individuals that led to the recognition of a world class gold province. Livermore went on to form Cordex and make numerous other "Carlin-type" gold discoveries many resulting in operating mines.

John Livermore was a long-time member of the Mining History Association. Livermore's philanthropy was widespread. He provided scholarships for students studying geology and mining, donated \$100,000 to help startup the Tonopah Historic Mining Park in Tonopah, Nevada, as well as, being involved in environmental and nature conservation efforts including at the old mining camp of Tuscarora, Nevada. Tuscarora will be visited on one of the Elko conference field trips.

The recipient of the John Livermore Award will receive recognition for service and two 2-ounce silver John Livermore Medallions. The Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation, will be providing the medallions at no cost to MHA. For those traveling to the Elko conference by vehicle and having some extra time a visit to the Tonopah Historic Mining Park is highly recommended.

Nominating Committee News

The MHA Nominating Committee is looking for nominations/volunteers to serve in the following positions beginning in 2020:

2 council members to serve 2020-2023

1 vice-president, serving 2020-2021, who will go on to be president 2021-2022 and past-president 2022-2023

1 member for the nominating committee to serve 2020-2023

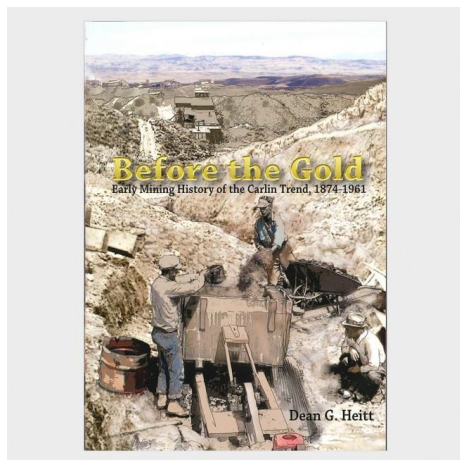
If you would like to serve in one of these positions or nominate someone, please email me Barbara Clements at bclements@clemrick.com

Call for Papers International Mining History Congress

The Twelfth International Mining History Congress will take place at the Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario from 18 to 23 June 2020.

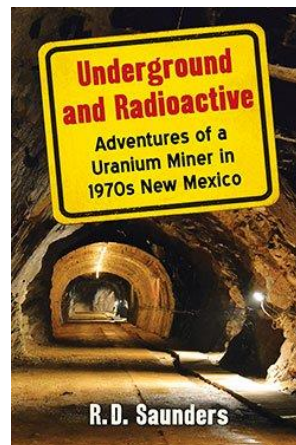
The deadline for submission in response to the Call for Papers has recently been extended to 31 January 2020. Questions and submissions of papers or panels should be directed to Jeremy Mouat (jmouat@ualberta.ca)

Recent Book Publications by MHA Members



Author: Dean G. Heitt
Title: Before the Gold: Early Mining History of the Carlin Trend, 1874-1961
Date: 2019
Publisher: Southern Nevada Conservancy, Las Vegas, Nevada
Binding: Paperback
Pages: 205
Price: \$24.95

The Carlin Trend in Northeast Nevada is one of the largest gold mining camps in the world having produced over 90M ounces of gold since 1965. However, this area had a long history of exploration and mining prior to the discovery of the gold mines. *Before the Gold* describes the prospects, mines and people that were involved in mining in this area from the staking of the first known claim in 1874 to closure of the Blue Star mine in 1961. Maps and text are used to describe the locations and work on the known workings in the Schroeder/Maggie Creek, Richmond, Lynn, and Bootstrap mining districts.



Author: R.D. Saunders
Title: Underground and Radioactive: Adventures of a Uranium Miner in 1970s New Mexico
Date: May 22, 2017
Publisher: McFarland & Company, Jefferson, NC
Pages: 220
ISBN-10: 9781476669960
ISBN-13: 978-1476669960
Paperback: \$29.95 E version \$9.99

Capturing for posterity the vanishing world of uranium mining, this candid memoir recounts the author's adventures and misadventures working underground in 1970s New Mexico, the "Uranium Capital of the World." Detailed descriptions of the tools, methods and hazards of uranium mining, along with character sketches and entertaining anecdotes, provide a colorful glimpse of a bygone way of life--drilling, blasting and mucking the sandstone of the Grants mineral belt in the San Juan Basin.

The **Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces Associates** is promoting an 11 day tour of English Industrial History. The tour will run from June 25 to July 3, 2020. Planned stops include the Scottish National Mining Museum in Edinburgh, National Coal Mining Museum for England, Quarry Mill at Wilmslow and Big Pit National Coal Museum. Total tour cost is \$4,400 for a double occupancy and includes 10 night accommodations with breakfast, ground transportation including entrance fees and local guide services. For more information contact Beth Landmesser at (570) 814-7689.

Restoration Notes

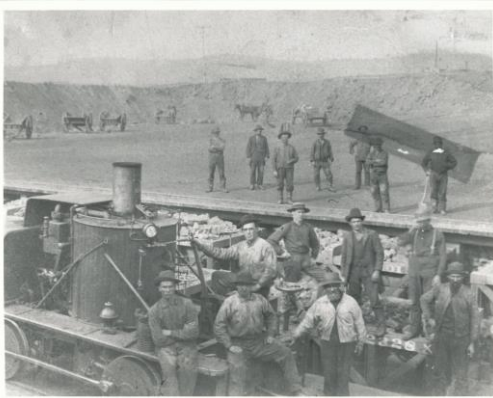
Iron Mining Locomotive “Yankee” to Undergo Restoration

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee was recently awarded \$120,000 in funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to restore the “Yankee,” one of the oldest surviving steam locomotives in the United States. The Yankee was built between 1862 and 1868 by Alexander Chaplin & Co. of Glasgow, Scotland. The Yankee is believed to be one of only three remaining Chaplin locomotives in the world.

The Yankee and its twin, the John Bull, were put to work at the Jackson Mine in Negaunee. Each locomotive was able to haul six to ten small ore cars each capable of carrying five to six tons of ore.

After being decommissioned, the Yankee resided outside the CCI Offices in Ishpeming for decades. The Yankee was donated to the State of Michigan on July 31, 1986.

Once restoration is complete, the Yankee will be placed on permanent display in the Michigan Iron Industry Museum. Below: Miners Pose with the Yankee at the Jackson Mine, Negaunee.



(Photo Credit, Archives of Michigan)

If you have any restoration news to share with the MHA, please forward to the editor at prspyhal@yahoo.com with MHA in the subject line for possible inclusion in a future newsletter.

Calumet & Hecla #3 Boiler to be Rebuilt

Built in 1915, locomotive #3 was used to move copper concentrate, ingots and other materials by the Calumet & Hecla mining company around the mills and smelters of Lake Linden and Hubbell. C&H donated the locomotive to the Houghton County Historical Society in 1969.

A restoration with the assistance of the Soo Line Historical Society and the Lake Superior Railroad Museum allowed visitors to experience living history behind a live steam locomotive. The #3, like all steam locomotives, is due for boiler repairs and has been withdrawn from service.

The Houghton County Historical Society is currently conducting a fundraiser to serve as a match to grant funds for the locomotives restoration. For more information, visit <http://www.houghtonhistory.org/index.html>

Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 on Tour

Union Pacific re-acquired and restored one of the eight remaining “Big Boy” 4-8-8-4 locomotives. Big Boy #4014 toured the UP system in 2019 to celebrate the anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad. Unfortunately the 2019 tour will wind up by the time this newsletter reaches you.

If you have the chance to see this locomotive in the future, it truly is a mechanical marvel. It also stands in stark contrast in size and power to the “Yankee.”



(Photo Paul R. Spyhalski)

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 6536
Boise, Idaho 83707

Upcoming Events

Mining History Association Conference
Elko, Nevada
June 10-14, 2020

International Mining History Conference
Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario
June 20-23, 2020

Australasian Mining History Conference
Cairns, Queensland, Australia
July, 2020

Western History Association Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 14-17, 2020

Mining History Association Conference
Birmingham, Alabama
June 2021

The *Mining History News* is published quarterly by and for the members of the **Mining History Association**. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged.

Deadlines:	Winter issue:	December 15 th
	Spring issue:	February 15 th
	Summer issue:	June 15 th
	Fall issue:	September 15 th

Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to Paul R. Spyhalski at prspyhal@yahoo.com with MHA at the start of the subject line.

Change of address: Please send all address changes to Rebecca Lange, Membership Chair, at the following address:

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 6536
Boise, ID 83707