
A Special Issue on the Southwest

On June 4-7, 1998, the Mining History Association held its annual conference in Bisbee, the copper camp in the Mule Mountains of southeastern Arizona. During the event, editor Christopher Huggard and I, both interested in the history of mining in the Southwest, decided to tap the wealth of high grade presentations at Bisbee and coordinate an issue of the *Mining History Journal* dedicated to the region. The results are presented here.

The desert country has a long mining tradition, but lacks in many cases easily accessible histories or documents. This is especially true for the Spanish colonial period. Rick Hendricks of the Vargas project at the University of New Mexico translates example items from the Spanish record about mining in southern New Mexico, a contribution to understanding the diverse activities of the period.

Spanish and later Mexican land grant decisions effected many mining districts. The Maxwell Land Grant confirmation had a major impact on the gold region of Elizabethton, New Mexico, as described by Richard Loosbrock. My own research found that the Santa Rita del Cobre grant is a central theme in the early American period history of that copper mine, an example of the long shadow of Spanish policies on the mining West.

Since the 1998 conference met in Bisbee, much good material was presented about that productive copper camp. Bisbee native and mining engineer Richard Graeme provides in the following pages an overview of the early history of the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company, the district's largest producer. Landscape architect Lynn Bjorkman shows how some of the district's wealth was put back into the design of the new town of Warren, an example of the City Beautiful movement in the West.

Bisbee is also known for its labor troubles, particularly the strike and deportation of 1917. Labor historian James McBride provides a balanced assessment of that event and its impact.

The copper country had many examples of bonanza as well as borrasca. Douglas Kupel in "Copper Chronicle" provides an overview of the rich Magma

mine at Superior, Arizona. On the other hand, Erik Nordberg followed the paper trail of a group of Michigan investors in their efforts to find an extension of the productive Old Dominion mine at Globe, Arizona. In his study of the Arizona & Michigan Mining Company, he uses rare corporate records to show the investors, and their losses in this wildcat speculation.

The Southwest contains more stories of busts than rich strikes. Michael Dunning, former resident of the Mohave desert country, details the marginal, but always hopeful operations in the Chemehuevis Mountains south of Kingman, Arizona.

Mining has many personalities, some well known, others not. Through the efforts of the oral history program at the University of California, Berkeley, Eleanor Swent has recorded some of the figures of twentieth century mining. She provides here one account, that of geologists Vincent Perry and William Humphrey at Cananea, Sonora across the border from Bisbee in Mexico.

Arizona has two figures in Congress's statuary hall: one a Spanish priest and explorer, Father Eusebio Kino, and the other a mining engineer, John C. Greenway. Mining engineer and poet Mason Coggin is writing a biography of the Yale sports star, Rough Rider, and Michigan then Arizona mine manager. Coggin contributes here a photographic essay on Greenway's work at Ajo.

This volume, longer than other issues of the *Mining History Journal*, will be a welcome addition to students of this overlooked mining country. Much new research is underway on Arizona and New Mexico topics. The editor and guest editor hope that this is just the beginning of the many needed studies of mining history in the Copper State and the Land of Enchantment.

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