

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 4 · May 1993 · Number 2

Deadwood, Lead and the Black Hills

The fourth annual meeting of the Mining History Association is set. Four days of activities are planned for Thursday the 29th of July to Sunday, August 1. The new Golden Hills Resort and Convention Center in Lead is our base, while tours will occur in Deadwood, Lead, and the Black Hills.

Mark Wolfe, Deadwood City Preservation Officer, will kick off events with a walking tour of Deadwood. The recent boom in historic preservation caused by the initiation of limited stakes gambling will be highlighted. The city just restored the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad depot (built 1897) and opened it as a visitor center a block from Main Street. The tour will leave from the depot. The Lawrence County Courthouse recently restored as well has ceiling paintings depicting early mining scenes. The 1906 Homestake Cyanide Mill, opposite the depot, is used by the county and may be converted for other uses. Main Street is the real attraction with its spruced up facades, a far change from just a few years ago when "buckaroo revival" seemed to dominate the scene. Over two blocks of handsome brick buildings have been restored to their turn of the century splendor.

Thursday at 5:30, after the walking tour, Stan Dempsey and Royal Gold will host a reception for the association at the former Homestake Mansion in Lead. Once the home of Homestake managers, the grand brick house is located across

the street from the Golden Hills resort. The evening is yours to explore the Hills, Lead, and Deadwood, with its many new restaurants, among them the elegant Jake's in Kevin Costner's Midnight Star Casino, or the more traditional environment at the dining room of the historic Franklin Hotel, or a quick sandwich at Old Style Saloon No. 10, the "only museum in the world with a bar."

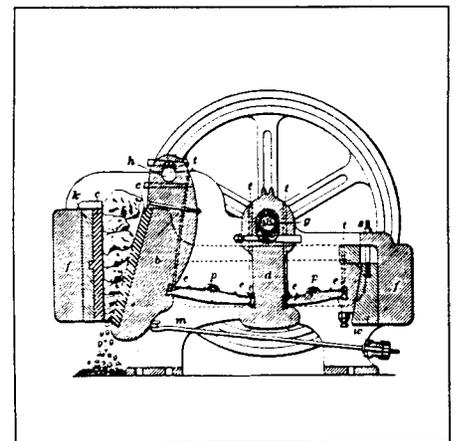
Don Thoms and the folks at the Black Hills Mining Museum invite all members to the expanding displays in their building on Main Street, Lead, a few blocks from the Golden Hills hotel. They will be open 9:00 to 5:00 and have everything from gold pans to stamp mill batteries. Their gift shop stocks hard to find books on the Hills. The Adams Museum in Deadwood will also be open and is well worth a visit as is the Museum of Geology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City.

Conference sessions will be held in the Golden Hills Resort and Convention Center, as will the Friday night banquet and the Saturday Presidential Luncheon. Watson Parker, well-known historian of Black Hills mining, will leave his secluded home in Hill City to join us Friday evening and present some of his insights on 115 years of golden history. President Stan Dempsey will enlighten us on more recent gold mining history on Saturday.

Allison Brooks of the Preservation Office of the South Dakota Historical Society deserves a big thanks for her

work on local arrangements and tours. On Saturday afternoon the group will tour the Homestake mine, still going strong. An all day Sunday tour will venture to former mining camps and milling sites in the Northern Black Hills. And after the conference, the Days of 76 celebration may tempt some members to dally and enjoy the splendor and scenery, and, of course, history of the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Allison Brooks has organized **child care** for parents bringing their children to the conference; after all the Black Hills are a great family vacation locale. The service will be available Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at \$3.50 per hour. If you wish to take advantage of the service please include in your conference registration the number of children, their ages, and when you need the child care.



The President's Page

Mining historians make much use of primary materials such as mining and machinery company records, mine maps, and old photographs, and the records and recollections of mining people. Where would we be without Herbert and Lou Hoover's translation of Agricola? Those who emphasize 19th century mining are blessed with the compilations of Browne and Raymond, and such high quality secondary materials as the Mining and Scientific Press and the Engineering and Mining Journal. The papers of such giants in the field as James D. Hague, the Janin's, Clarence King and the Foote's are invaluable. Wonderful collections at places like the Huntington, the Bancroft, the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Historical Society make our work productive.

We who use these materials of mining history might reflect upon the opportunities that are available to us now to collect and preserve records and recollections of more recent vintage. Now is the time to secure the history of mining in the twentieth century. Many of the great mines of mining are no more -- the Bunker Hills; and Anaconda's are gone, and in some cases their records are not yet secure. The men and women who know about iron mining in Minnesota and Michigan, the world wide depression-era gold revival, and the interesting efforts to find all sorts of minerals during World War II, are getting on in years. Likewise, the veterans of the uranium boom of the fifties, and the porphyry copper/moly rush of the sixties and seventies are starting to enjoy retirement. Modern gold miners are making history as we speak. Their records will include such new items as environmental impact statements and video tapes, providing new challenges for curators.

Now is the time to collect the "good stuff," - the diaries and correspondence of twentieth century miners, maps and photos, engineering reports, annual reports and other company records - and

to fund preservation. We need to support the kind of work that saved the Anaconda records, and the effects that are producing the wonderful oral histories of the Bancroft program. It takes good access and a practiced eye to find good historical materials -- the items that are of real historical value, and not just things that are getting old -- and it takes a little pushing to get someone to save them and pay for their care. (It takes a lot of effort, but it is one thing that all of us can do to repay the debt we owe to the collectors, compilers, preservers and indexers who came before us.

Stan Dempsey
Denver, Colorado

Organization Notes

The association's committee on the Third International Conference on Mining History continues its work. The conference will be held in Golden, Colorado at the Colorado School of Mines June 6-10, 1994. The Mining History Association's annual conference will be held in concert with the Third International. Individuals interested in giving a paper should submit a one page vitae and a synopsis of the paper (approximately 200 words) to the Mining History Association by July 1, 1993.

John Townley of Great Basin Studies is working on the establishment of the Mining History Association's journal. The intent is to have the first issue ready by the time of the Third International meeting. Individuals interested in submitting papers for consideration for publication should write the association for the guidelines for submitting manuscripts.

The annual election will again be held in the fall. Nominations will be made at the annual conference as well as by writing the Mining History Association, attention nominating committee, Ron Limbaugh, Silvia Pettem, and Richard Franciviglia.

Conference Display Table

Homer Milford has suggested that conference participants bring their favorite mining photograph or an unidentified mining scene for others to guess the locations, period, and mineral or machine. Old maps or objects, stock certificates or letterhead, may be brought as well. There will be a table available to place such items for display and discussion.

Other Conferences

The Third Conference of Historians of Latin American Mining will meet November 22-26, 1993 in Taxco, Mexico. Individuals interested in delivering a paper should write Dr. Ines Herrera, Comité Organizador, III Reunion Minería Latinoamericana, Dirección de Estudios Históricos, Apartado Postal 5-119, Mexico, D. F. 06500, Mexico.

Members interested in mining collectibles, lanterns, signals, and hardware should write Jim Van Fleet, collector and publisher of *Eureka, The Journal of Mining Collectibles*. The journal includes brief essays on items and their provenance. It is a slick, well prepared publication, available for \$25 from Jim Van Fleet, 222 Market St., Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

The Mining History Association Newsletter

Denver, Colorado

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$10 per year. Please send dues to MHA, Post Office Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215.

Submissions for publication in the newsletter are welcome. Write to Robert L. Spude, Editor.

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Recent publications on the history of mining

The following list of articles and dissertations that relate to the history of mining have been published in the last two years. This list continues the one published in this newsletter last year. However, this year's bibliography has been expanded to include all types of mining, all across the U.S. and Canada. We are always looking for additions to the bibliography, so please let us know if we have missed an article or dissertation.

Lysa Wegman-French

- Abrams, James, et al. "Anthracite Unionism and the UMW: An Oral History." *Pennsylvania History* 58, no. 4 (1991): 330-37.
- Alley, William. "Yakutat Bound: A Prospector's Letter and Photographs." *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 83 (January 1992): 2-11.
- Auel, Lisa Benkert. "Not Without Protest: Life in the Appalachian Coalfields." *Prologue* 23, no. 2 (1991): 178-83.
- Aurand, Harold W. "Early Mine Workers' Organizations in the Anthracite Region." *Pennsylvania History* 58, no. 4 (1991): 298.
- Baker, William M. "The Miners and the Mounties: The Royal North West Mounted Police and the 1906 Lethbridge Strike." *Labour (Canada)* 27 (1991): 55-96.
- Balboni, Alan. "From Laborer to Entrepreneur: The Italian-American in Southern Nevada, 1905-1947." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 34, no. 1 (1991): 257-72.
- Balsley, Howard W. "Early Days of Uranium." *Canyon Legacy* 10 (1991).
- Benson, Bruce L. "Reciprocal Exchange as the Basis for Recognition of Law: Examples from American History." *Journal of Libertarian Studies* 10, no. 1 (1991): 53-82.
Demonstrates that the private sector produced order when laws were unavailable; examples include California mining camps.
- Blatz, Perry K. "Local Leadership and Local Militancy: The Nanticoke Strike of 1899 and the Roots of Unionization in the Northern Anthracite Fields." *Pennsylvania History* 58, no. 4 (1991): 278-97.
- Carnes, Pack. "A Folklorist's Perspective: 'Gold Placer' and the European Fairy Tale." *Journal of the Southwest* 33 (Winter 1991): 475-85.
- Collins, John Davison. "Uranium Mine and Mill Tailings Reclamation in Wyoming - Ten Years After the Industry Collapsed." *Land and Water Law Review* 26, no. 2 (1991).
- Curtis, E. J., et al. "The Snowslide's Work." *Idaho Yesterdays* 35, no. 4 (Winter 1992): 19-22. Reprinted from *Blackfoot Register*, 5 March 1881.
A letter to the editor describing an avalanche at Wood River Mining District.
- Derickson, Alan. "From Company Doctors to Union Hospitals: The First Democratic Health-Care Experiments of the United Mines Workers of America." *Labor History* 33, no. 3 (Summer 1992): 325-42.
- Derickson, Alan. "The United Mine Workers of America and the Recognition of Occupational Respiratory Diseases, 1902-1968." *American Journal of Public Health* 81 (June 1991): 782-90.
- Emmons, David. "Ethnic Cohesion and Advancement: Irish Worker Conservatism in Butte, 1876-1906." *Journal of the West* 31, no. 2 (April 1992): 59-65.
- Ferris, Dawna Eileen. "The Best of Times, The Worst of Times: A Bio-Cultural Analysis of the Ferguson District, 1892-1909." M.A. thesis, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1991.
Examines the causes of death in this Nevada gold mining district.
- Gardiner, Harvey. "Finding New Mines Within Old Mines at Leadville, Colorado." *Journal of the West* 31, no. 4 (October 1992): 71.
- Koplos, Jonathan J. "An Economic Analysis of Mine Production Fluctuations: A Study of Historic Wisconsin Zinc Mining." Ph.D. diss., University of Wisconsin Madison, 1991.
- Kowalewski, Michael. "Imagining the California Gold Rush: The Visual and Verbal Legacy." *California History* 71 (Spring 1992)
- Laurie, Clayton D. "The United States Army and the Return to Normalcy in Labor Dispute Interventions: The Case of the West Virginia Coal Mine Wars, 1920-1921." *West Virginia History* 50 (1991): 1-24.
- Mellinger, Phil. "The Men Have Become Organizers': Labor Conflict and Unionization in the Mexican Mining Communities of Arizona, 1900-1915." *Western Historical Quarterly* 23, no. 3 (August 1992): 323-47.
- "New Resource Materials." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 34, no. 2 (1991): 373-77.
Includes papers of Cramp family in Tonopah in 1902-09.
- O'Keefe, Timothy J. "An Irish Wedding Party in Jerome, Arizona." *Journal of the West* 31, no. 2 (April 1992): 85-86.
- Ochs, Kathleen H. "The Rise of American Mining Engineers: A Case Study of the Colorado School of Mines." *Technology and Culture* 33 (April 1992): 278-301.

- Ogden, Annegret. "'Looking for Work In Every Direction': The Voice of David Brown, Secretary of the Colored American Stock Quartz Mining Company, Sierra County, California." *Californians* 9, no. 1 (1991): 14-17.
The career of a black prospector, 1852-87.
- Pisani, Donald J. "The Origins of Western Water Law: Case Studies from Two California Mining Districts." *California History* 70 (Fall 91): 242-56.
- Quebedeaux, Richard. "Restored Petition from Gold Rush Days Signed by 219 Pioneers in Nevada City, California." *Manuscripts* 43, no. 2 (1991): 122-33.
- Renk, Nancy F. "Back to the Basics: The Lake Pend Oreille Lime and Cement Industry and Its Regional Impact." *Idaho Yesterdays* 36, no. 1 (Spring 1992): 2-11.
- Sampson, Joanna. "Strikebreaker!" *Journal of the West* 30, no. 4 (1991): 91-97.
Industrial warfare in the Boulder County, Colorado coalfields during 1911.
- Sewell, Steve. "Amongst the Damp: The Dangerous Profession of Coal Mining in Oklahoma, 1870-1935." *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 70 (Spring 1992): 66-83.
- Singer, Alan. "Communists and Coal Miners: Rank-and-File Organizing in the United Mine Workers of America During the 1920s." *Science and Society* 55, no. 2 (1991): 132-57.
- "Skagway: A Legacy of Gold." *Alaska Geographic* 19, no. 1 whole issue (1992): 1-79.
- Spude, Robert L. "Cyanide and the Flood of Gold: Some Colorado Beginnings of the Cyanide Process of Gold Extraction." *Essays and Monographs in Colorado History* Essays no. 12 (1991): 1-35.
- Spude, Robert L. "Elusive Gold: George P. Harrington and the Bradshaw Mines, 1887-1922." *Journal of Arizona History* 33, no. 2 (Summer 1992): 153-82.
- Tallichet, Suzanne Elisabeth. "Moving Up Down in the Mine: Sex Segregation in Underground Coal Mining." Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, 1991.
- Townley, John M. "Trail to the Comstock: An Accidental Bonanza." *Overland Journey* 9, no. 1 (1991): 22-30.
- Turner, Leigh Block. "On Being a Child in a Little Mountain Town." *Colorado Heritage* (Summer 1991): 2-19.
Personal reminiscences of life in Ouray from 1878 to the 1890s.
- Valletta, Clement. "'To Battle for Our Ideas': Community Ethic and Anthracite Labor, 1920-1940." *Pennsylvania History* 58, no. 4 (1991): 311-29.
- Wade, Mary A. "Reminiscences: Interesting Characters in the Life of Mary A. Wade (Mrs. Mary Wade Mitchell)" *Women's Studies Quarterly* 19, no. 3-4 (1991): 122-49.
Includes two years on the Colorado mining frontier in the 1850s.
- Watkins, T. H. "Introduction: Law and Liquidation." *Wilderness* 55 (Summer 1992): 10-13.
- Wegars, Priscilla. "The History and Archaeology of the Chinese in Northern Idaho, 1880 through 1910." Ph.D. diss., University of Idaho, 1991.
- Welch, John R. and Daniela Triadan. "The Canyon Creek Turquoise Mine, Arizona." *Kiva* 56, no. 2 (1991): 145-64.
A pre-Columbian Pueblo quarry.
- Westwood, Richard E. "Howard W. Balsley, Dean of Uranium Miners and Civic Leader of Moab." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 59, no. 4 (1991): 395-406.
- Williams, David. "Dawn of a New Era: Gold Mining in Twentieth-Century Georgia." *Georgia History in Pictures. Georgia Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 4 (1992): 915-28.
- Williams, David. "Georgia's Forgotten Miners: African-Americans and the Georgia Gold Rush." *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 75, no. 1 (1991): 76-89.
- Williams, David. "'Such Excitement You Never Saw': Gold Mining in Nineteenth-Century Georgia." *Georgia History in Pictures. Georgia Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 3 (1992): 695-707.
- Wilson, Susan E. "President Theodore Roosevelt's Role in the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902." *Labor's Heritage* 3, no. 1 (1991): 4-23.
- Yu, Li-hua. "Chinese Immigrants in Idaho." Ph.D. diss., Bowling Green State University, 1991.
- Zanjanli, Sally. "'Hang Me If You Will': Violence in the Last Western Mining Boomtown." *Montana* 42 (Spring 1992): 38-49.
- Zanjanli, Sally. "The Power to Rule or Ruin: Goldfield's Long Shadow Over Nevada Politics." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 34, no. 2 (1991): 321-39.
- Zanjanli, Sally. "Wildcats and Bank Wreckers: The Mining Camp Entrepreneurs of Goldfield." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 35, no. 2 (1992): 105-24.

Fourth Meeting of the Mining History Association

Golden Hills Resort and Conference Center
Lead, South Dakota
July 29-August 1, 1993

July 29, Thursday

2:00 Walking Tour of Deadwood, Mark Wolfe, City Preservation Officer
Meet at City Visitor Center/Historic Depot, Deadwood Street

5:30-7:00 Reception at Homestake Mansion, Lead

Hosted by Mining History Association President Stan Dempsey, Royal Gold

July 30, Friday

Session 1, 8:30 A. M.

Lenses on the Mines, Lysa Wegman-French, National Park Service, Chair

Ron Limbaugh, University of the Pacific

Miner with a Camera: The Klondike Gold Rush as Recorded by a Participant

David Wolff, Arizona State University

Mining Ground on the Fringe: The Horseshoe-Mogul Mining Company of the Northern Black Hills

Session 2: 9:45

Distant Traditions, Duane Smith, Fort Lewis College, Chair

David F. Myrick, Santa Barbara, California

The Mines of Potosi, Bolivia

Ross Mainwaring, Sydney Australia

Oil from the Rock: American Connections and Influence on the Australian Oil Shale Industry 1865 to 1962

Lunch: 11:30 to 1:00

Session 3: 1:00

Mining Landscapes: The Plateau and Plains,

Ron Brown, Southwest Texas State University, Chair

Deidre Busacca, University of California, Davis

Uranium Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau: Heritage Corridor of the 21st Century

Richard Francaviglia, The University of Texas at Arlington

Black Diamonds and Vanishing Ruins: Reconstructing the Historic Mining Landscape of Thurber, Texas

Session 4: 2:15

Mining Landscapes: The Lake and River Country

James E. Fell, Jr., Colby College, Chair

Lawrence Sommer, Nebraska State Historical Society

Iron and Copper from the Lake: An overview of the Lake Superior Mining Region

Mark & Lynn Langenfeld, Madison, Wisconsin

A Disappearing Heritage: Recent Investigations in Wisconsin's Lead-Zinc District

Banquet: 6:00 P. M., Golden Hills Resort

Otis Young, Arizona State University, Introductions

Watson Parker, "Black Hills Mines and Mining"

July 31, Saturday

Session 5: 8:30 A. M.

The Worlds of Tin and Zinc, Jeremy Mouat, Athabasca University, Chair

John Hillman, Trent University

The Impact of the International Tin Restriction Schemes on the Return to Equity of tin Mining Companies, 1929-1939

George Domijan, Wardner, Idaho

The Sullivan Electrolytic Zinc Plant near Kellogg, Idaho

Session 6: 9:45

Gold on Celluloid, Clark Spence, University of Illinois, Chair

Charles E. Hughes, Timpanogos Research Associates

Dredges and Thaw Fields: A Film Documenting the Activities of the Fairbanks Exploration Company in Alaska

Presidential Luncheon: 11:30

Stan Dempsey, "Gold Mining in the Recent Past."

Tour 1: 1:00-5:00

Tour of the Homestake Mining Company works, Lead

August 1, Sunday

Tour 2: 9:00-5:00.

Tour of the northern Black Hills, historic camps and sites.

Registration for the Mining History Association's fourth annual conference to be held July 29-August 1.

Name.....
 Address.....

Enclosed is a check for:

registration (\$10)

Optional:

Friday banquet (\$15)

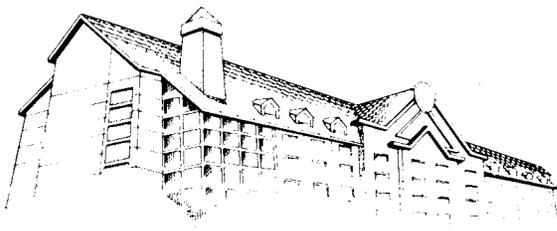
Saturday Presidential Luncheon (\$10)

Saturday afternoon tour of Homestake (\$5)

Sunday tour of Northern Black Hills (includes lunch) (\$29)

Total enclosed.....

Mail to Mining History Association, P. O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215



The conference will be held in the Golden Hills Resort and Convention Center, 900 Miners Avenue, Lead, South Dakota 57754. They have given the association a conference rate of \$60 per room. Please call them at 1-800-528-1234 or 605-584-1800, at least two weeks prior to the conference.

DEADWOOD AND LEAD

BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

TRIAL OF JACK McCALL

GHOSTS OF DEADWOOD GULCH

HOMESTAKE GOLD MINE

BLACK HILLS MINING MUSEUM

LEAD TO DEADWOOD - 3 MILES -

PLUMA

LEAD

TWIN CITY MALL

BLACK HILLS BADLANDS AND LAKES FAMILY APPROVED ATTRACTIONS

OLD WEST TRAIL TOUR

DEADWOOD

GOLDEN HILLS RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTER

SALOON NO. 10

BROKEN BOOT GOLD MINE

MT. MORIAH CEMETERY

GRAVES OF WILD BILL HEARD, CALAMITY JANE, POTATO CREEK, JOHNNY PREACHER BATH, MANY OTHER BLACK HILLS NOTABLES

Map of attractions in Deadwood distributed by the Deadwood-Lead Chamber of Commerce, 1991.

Book Reviews

Letters from the Nevada Frontier: Correspondence of Tasker L. Oddie, 1898-1902. Edited by William A Douglas and Robert A. Nyle. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. 392 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index.

Tasker Oddie's engaging letters to his mother trace his rapid transformation from a impecunious young clerk to a prosperous mining owner-manager, and rising politician who would later become governor and senator. His letters also chronicle the transformation of a mining backwater into the lodestone of the last great mining rush in the West.

Oddie was in his late twenties and fresh from law school, when he came west from New Jersey as little more than a clerk for the Stokes family's mining interests in Austin and Ione. And he served them well, exposing the fraudulent dealings of their Nevada agent. But Oddie had greater ambition and after about a year he quit to seek his own fortune. he prospected a bit, toyed with various schemes, and finally put what little money he had saved into buying and opening a quicksilver mine - hiring two experienced miners, with whom he worked as cook and apprentice.

His letters are a wonderful exposition on the exhilaration and frustration of a fledgling mining venture. He was thoroughly captivated when he wrote "mining is fascinating work when one is working for himself with good prospects ahead... always expecting to strike it rich. It is somewhat a gamble though, but it is a clean business, as when a man makes money at it, he is ... hurting nobody. It is not like so many other lines of business where one will succeed at the expense of someone else." Still he ran for district attorney just to get his hands on a little cash - a paltry \$30 a month - while he tried to sell his mine.

Oddie eventually found his fortune, in spite of himself it would seem, just by being there. He filled his letters with schemes and dreams, but in June 1900 when he got an assay for an acquaintance, Jim Butler, in exchange for a one-third

interest in the property, he thought so little of its prospects that he didn't mention it for three months, and he gave half of his interest to a friend for making the assay. Even when the assay showed \$206 in gold and 540 oz. of silver to the ton, Oddie was still so absorbed in the hopes of selling his quicksilver mine that he didn't bother to accompany Butler to the claims to get more samples. Not until October did Oddie finally go out to see the claims that would make his fortune and launch the great rush to Tonopah. Butler and his partners sold the claims less than a year later for the equivalent of \$7,000,000 in today's dollars, and Oddie got his share - through he quickly lamented that they had sold out too cheaply, too soon.

Oddie bought stock in the new company, however, and was appointed general manager. His altruism now vanished, he wanted the position, not for the salary, but for the opportunity it offered, as he candidly wrote, "Being on the inside will be a benefit to me, especially as I hold some stock. This stock will be on the board, and will naturally fluctuate greatly, so I want to be in a position to know what is going on, on the inside. That is the way all millions are generally made in mines... simply selling at the right time, when the public is anxious to buy."

Oddie's letters end abruptly when his mother and sister moved to Nevada in the spring of 1902. He did make more money from the mines, but he lost it all in the panic of 1907, and he worked briefly as a miner again before he won the governorship in 1910.

The editors have done an excellent job in preparing these letters for publication and providing extensive notes on the people and places mentioned. The only thing that I found lacking is a synopsis of Oddie's life prior to his arrival in Nevada, but that can be found elsewhere. What is here is well worth reading!

Richard E. Lingenfelter
University of California, San Diego

Bret Harte's California: Letters to the Springfield Republican and Christian Register, 1866-67. Edited and with an introduction by Gary Scharnhorst. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, c1990. 170 pp., illustrations, notes, index.

This collection of 37 letters to two eastern newspapers, some never reprinted prior to this publication, are a welcome new source of raw data for the Harte bibliophile and critic. Written in the middle years of his California experience, after he had been chased out of the North Coast region for sympathizing with Indians, but before he had assumed the editorial chores for the *Overland Monthly*, they exemplify the stylized humor and satire that he later used to such good effect in *The Luck of Roaring Camp*, *The Heathen Chinee* and other colorful vignettes of life in the gold camps.

While there is little here of direct interest to the mining historian, Harte's commentary on life and times in post-gold rush San Francisco underscores the lingering societal impact of precious-metals mining. At his best as social critic, he peels away the layers of posturing cant and blatant racism that characterized regional pop culture. Writing at a time when the Comstock was in borrasca, he anticipates - or perhaps emulates --Mark Twain by heaping scorn on stock Jobbers and speculators. Religious bigots and pompous politicians also take the heat as well as bumbling bureaucrats, incompetent contractors and rootless immigrants, far from the civilizing influences of refined society. His frequent comments on the anomalous local weather, and his moralizing on the foibles of western life in an era of unmitigated greed, in part stem from his desire to interest his eastern readers. It also reflects his own status as a misplaced Yankee at odds with the decivilizing influences of the mining frontier.

Readers of this slim volume will appreciate the critical introduction by Gary Scharnhorst as well as the unobtrusive but useful explanatory endnotes.

Ron Limbaugh, University of the Pacific

Frazier, Claude A. *Miners and Medicine West, Virginia Memories*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. xi + 131 pp. \$19.95 cloth.

Appalachia coal-company doctors faced a variety of problems and illnesses that would shock the modern physician. Both the incompetent and the dedicated professional practiced under conditions that reflected the poverty, poor transportation and lack of education found in the isolated, narrow mountain valleys the miners called home. Nor did some of the mining companies desire to take much care of their workers or their families.

Dr. Claude Frazier, a coal camp doctor's son, practiced in these hills, he knows the problems well. Utilizing his own knowledge, personal reminiscences, interviews and general medical research he produced a moving, touching, and sad story of the coal miners and their families. This is a folksy history of a century of coal mining medicine providing some insights that would not be found elsewhere. There are chapters on hospitals, nurses, "old-time medicine," and Black Lung, for example.

Miners and Medicine is not for everybody. Its scope is narrow and does not dig deeply into the topic. Frazier should have been better served by Oklahoma Press; the book required more editing than it received. Repetition mars its impact and its organization needs to be tightened. The photographs are universally dark which takes away some of their impact, even if this is a book about one of the dark sides or coal mining. It certainly is a place to start however, if one is looking to uncover medical practices in the West Virginia coal fields.

Duane A. Smith, Fort Lewis College

Bisbee: Urban Outpost on the Frontier. Edited by Carlos A. Schwantes. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1992. 141 pages, illustrations, notes, bibliography.

Bisbee is the historic heart of Arizona's Warren Mining District, which was a

major copper mining center from about 1880 to 1975. Although Bisbee has been the subject of several important articles, geological reports, and books, this new publication is a welcome addition to the literature about the "Queen of the Copper Camps." *Bisbee: Urban Outpost on the Frontier* was inspired by a major public history effort initiated by the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum in the late 1980s -- an NEH sponsored exhibit. The purpose of the exhibit, and the book's seven essays, is to put Bisbee in the boarder context of mining and social history.

Editor Carlos Schwantes begins with an introduction to "Bisbee and the Copper Kingdom" in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In "Copper Star of the Arizona Urban Firmament," Charles Sargent places early Bisbee in a regional urban context; geological engineer Richard Graeme's essay on "The Queen and Her Court -- An Industrial History of the Warren Mining District" provides an excellent overview; Museum Curator Tom Vaughan's "Everyday Life in a Copper Camp" merges stunning historic photographs from the museum's outstanding collection with first-hand antidotes; in "Making Connections," transportation geographer/historian Don Hofsommer shows how dependent Bisbee's mining was on railroad (and road) technology; Clark Spence's "The Finest Mine on Earth" is primarily about the promotion of, and investment in, western mines; and in "Toil and Trouble," Carlos Schwantes describes the often tempestuous relationship between mine management and labor. A bibliography is included for those interested in reading more about Bisbee and western mining.

Like all anthologies, *Bisbee: Urban Outpost on the Frontier* is strengthened by the varied perspectives it brings to the subject, and yet the essays vary in their quality: it is apparent that some authors know Bisbee, and its context, better than others. Furthermore, not all of the materials used in this book are cited or credited, including several sequential land use maps redrawn from my 1982 *Journal of Arizona History* article on the evolution of the Warren Mining District; the publisher

assures me, however, that this oversight will be corrected in subsequent printings. *Bisbee: Urban Outpost on the Frontier* is highly recommended to students of western mining and urban history.

Richard Francaviglia, University of Texas at Arlington

The Restless Longing, A prospector's Story. Edited by Jeane Browne. University of South Dakota Press, 1992, 133 pages.

The Restless Longing is a series of letters written between 1883 and 1907 by Hutch Stevens to his sister (grandmother of the editor). Hutch had left the family farm in Pennsylvania in 1880 with a college degree, and headed for Lead, South Dakota to make his fortune.

By 1894, Hutch, a bachelor, was bored with his job as a bookkeeper at a furniture store, and took some classes at the South Dakota School of Mines. Then he left on a prospecting tip to the northwest. He wrote, "I am not going off on a wild goose chase -- or a Quixotic impulse -- but with the hope of doing as well or better than here."

Although Hutch describes his journeys and mentions the mines, his letters tell more about his philosophy of life than the techniques of mining. By the time he had travelled through Idaho and reached Washington, Hutch was discouraged. Prospecting was simply "walk, dig, cook and sleep." He claimed to have been misled by "lying" newspaper reports. His advice to his sister was "When you have a place fit to live in, stay there and don't go off to places you don't know anything about."

After Washington, Hutch went to Colorado to visit his brother. He found a job as a miner in Victor, but wasn't impressed. "Colorado has been the dumping ground for all parts of the country; they have shipped invalids here for years," he wrote. "Hosts of disreputable characters that live off vice have poured in here... and a great many people are living hand to mouth." He soon took off to prospect, wandering through Colorado and into Wyoming.

Nearly three years after he left, Hutch returned to Lead. He called it "the best town in America," and returned to his friends and his job. But 10 more years was enough. In 1906, he was off again, and wrote of "the restless longing that fills the mind of those who must dig for their existence."

This time he ended up in a tent in the Nevada desert, and staked out 20 claims. For the first time he felt his prospects "looked good." Then the letters stopped, and his body was found four months later.

Hutch's letters are simple and unaffected. Although the editor has provided some transition and background, the letters are not seen through the eyes of scholars, but are just plain primary source material. Reading them provides a fresh, and worthwhile, insight into one prospector's life.

Silvia Pettem

The Book Lode, Boulder, Colorado

James E. Ayers, A. E. Rogge, Everette J. Bassett, Melissa Keane and Diane L. Douglas. *Humbug! The Historical Archaeology of Placer Mining on Humbug Creek in Central Arizona*. Phoenix: Dames and Moore, 1992.

What a pleasure to read an archaeological study that is more than just a description of anomalous rock piles and fragments of glass. The archaeologists and historians at Dames and Moore, when they realized they had happened upon a rather rare resource in Arizona-- the remnants of a gold placer mining operation--pulled together everything they could find about placer mining in the state and the principal investor in the endeavor, Daniel Keating. They turned their journey into the world of late nineteenth and early twentieth century placer mining into a readable summary setting the context for the archaeological features they found. At the hands of this obvious multi-disciplinary team, a simple data recovery project turned into a model study on the remains of such small, unsuccessful mining investments.

Only one of the five chapters in the report is devoted to the archaeological remains, but the coverage is thorough (the

other four chapters explore the documentary evidence associated with placer mining and Humbug Creek in Yavapai County, northwest of Phoenix). All of the archaeological features, including two dams, two construction camps, ditches, tunnels, flume crossings, spoils piles, sluice boxes and a plethora of abandoned equipment, are adequately described. Most of the archeological excavations were undertaken in the construction camps: Camp Hattersly, dating to the 1890's, and an unnamed "Lower Camp" associated with a 1920's occupation. Other archaeologists looking for comparative material for similar sites will find some of the 1890's artifact inventories detailed and imminently useable. Unfortunately, only "judgmental" samples were taken in other areas, including the extensive trash dump at the Lower Camp. While fulfilling the immediate needs to identify the date and function of individual features, the use of such sampling techniques precludes any future research on the collections by others who might be interested in quantified comparative material.

The study proposed to answer a number of research questions at the outset, including determining the ethnicity of the undocumented workers in the construction camps. Unfortunately, the parsimonious material culture associated with any transient camp was not conducive to eliciting such information. Larger collections may have helped, if the investigators had chosen to spend as much time comparing quantified data from other mining sites as they spent researching placer mining in Arizona. The nature of their own collection techniques may have precluded this avenue of investigation.

Overall, the study was a pleasure to read. Cultural resource management as a discipline would be regarded with more esteem if more studies were as well done.

Cathy Spude

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JoAnn Levy, *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*. Hamden, Connecticut: Archon Books, Shoestring Press, 1990. Illustrations, map, biographical notes, bibliography, index. 265 pages.

Those who know much about California Gold Rush history will be familiar with the tale of the circus parade with the elephant in the lead. A farmer, coming to town, was thrilled by the elephant even though his terrified horses overturned the wagon full of vegetables, and ruined his goods. "I don't give a hang," the farmer said, "for I have seen the elephant." This phrase came to symbolize the spirit of the westward movement during the Gold Rush: the argonauts and pioneers did not care for what they had left behind, because they were "going to see the elephant."

JoAnn Levy, a writer by trade, has thoroughly investigated a topic about which little was known: women in California during those early years of the Gold Rush who also came to see the elephant. While many histories imply that there were very few women in California then (or that those who were here were prostitutes), Ms. Levy's research reveals that they became school teachers, mothers, temperance speakers, miners, boardinghouse keepers, cooks, washers, seamstresses, entertainers, real estate agents, doctors, diviners, midwives, artists, and more. Levy suggests that between 10 and 25 percent of the overland forty-niners were female, with many women already living in California even before Jennie Wimmer tested James Marshall's 1848 find in her lye soap kettle and pronounced the gold as genuine.

The ten chapters in *They Saw the Elephant* take the women "Over the Plains," or "Across the Sea," leaving "Home Sweet Home," as the chapters are entitled. From "Ashes to Ashes" discusses the deaths of women and families on the journey or initial settlement, followed by stories of women who went into business for themselves in "Working Women." It is clear from "Free to Be" that a particular type of woman came to the California gold fields: independent, free-thinking, less vulnerable than her Eastern counterpart, a

woman who might become whatever she wanted, like Charley Parkhurst, the well-known stage driver for Wells Fargo, whose gender was revealed only upon her death, or the female bullfighter, the ten-pin (bowling) alley operator, and the French barber. "All the World's a Stage" brings to life once again the careers of Lola Montez and her risqué spider dance, Lotta Crabtree, a child of six when she moved to the mining camp of Grass Valley and learned to dance, Carrie Chapman, and others who entertained in city theaters and camp lyceums. A presentation of the lives of Chinese, South American, and Anglo prostitutes living in an "Improper Society" highlights the filth and dirt of flophouses, the splendor and opulence of grand brothels such as those run by Belle Cora, and the universal popularity of French harlotry. Concluding the book and bringing the women back into the national culture of the time are "Love and Marriage" and "Weaving the Social Fabric."

Women in California learned to wear men's clothing, manoeuver physically demanding obstacles, awe the men of their acquaintance, but still yearned for family and social life, missing many comforts of home and "making do." Not discussed much in this book are the hardships that women uniquely had to suffer, such as pregnancy, childbirth, fear of rape and other sexual violence, indignities, menses, and menopause, but these were rarely discussed by the women of the time themselves. The only criticism of this well-written book is that it desperately needs a series of maps depicting the locations discussed. The reader unfamiliar with the California foothills will have no concept of what it means to move from Sacramento to Deer Creek or from San Francisco to Angel's Camp. More photographs or period illustrations would also enhance the presentation. Overall Ms. Levy has done a remarkable job of distilling the letters, diaries, books, manuscripts, and newspaper articles into

the stories of many women whose lives fill this important book.

Shelly Davis-King
Infotec Research, Inc.
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Nevada Publications has just released a two volume atlas to the ghost towns and mining camps of Nevada. The volumes are by Stan Paher and can be used with his popular *Nevada Mining Camps and Ghost Towns*. The late photographer and ghost town authority Nell Murbarger supplied over 460 of her vintage images of the faded camp. Copies can be obtained for \$14.95 each (or combined hardback, \$29.95) from Nevada Publications, 4135 Badger Circle, Reno, NV 89509.

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