

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 9 · November 1998 · Number 4

Viva Guanajuato!

The IV International Mining History Congress met at the School of Mines in the great silver mining center, November 10-13. Thanks to coordinators Ines Herrera, Rina Ortiz, and Jesus Franco of Mexico, the event was a grand success, with much good exchange, symposia, and tours of the mines and town. Old friends were greeted, including a dozen or so MHA members, and new friends made. Papers ranged from the preservation of the prehistoric mining landscape of England to modern environmental concerns, from Latin American mineros to prostitutes in the Yukon Territory, from nineteenth century Australian bonanza kings to small scale mining cooperatives in Guanajuato today.

The participants toured the Valenciana mine, discovered in the mid-18th century it still produces metal. A grand church, with churrigueresque facade, stands above the mine. Other mines -- the Guadalupe with its flying buttress supported walls, the Minas Rayas and others -- were toured during a brisk, morning walk in the wonderful temperate climate.

Evening events, including a dance through the streets following musicians in a traditional "callejoneada," made the IV Congress a memorable one. A big tip of the miner's hat to our colleagues in Mexico. Mark your calendar: International V is planned for September 2000 in Milos, Greece; more information on the millennial event to come.

Western History Meet

The Western History Association just held its annual conference in Sacramento in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the California gold discovery. Besides the usual Mining History Association breakfast, which drew 40 early risers, there were tours and sessions on mining. Malcolm Rohrbough gave the inaugural lecture, "The California Gold Rush as a World Event." Past MHA board member Elizabeth Jameson moderated a panel of up and coming scholars. "Gold Rush to Cold War: New Histories of Western Mining." Many other MHAers participated, including Ron James who presented a piece from his new book, *The Roar and the Silence, A History of Virginia City and the Comstock Lode.*

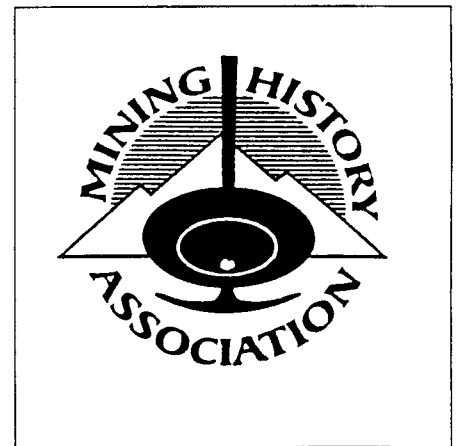
North Carolina's Turn

The Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site, North Carolina has planned a year long series of events to celebrate the bicentennial of America's first gold discovery. Teacher workshops and curriculum development will be sponsored and library reading lists created. In the third week of September, 1999 the University of North Carolina - Charlotte will host a symposium on gold mining history. Dr. Barbara Theide is bicentennial coordinator and can be reach at Reed Gold Mine SHS, 9621 Reed Mine Rd., Stanfield, NC 28163 or call 704-721-4653. e:mail is reedmine@ctc.net

California Gold

The California Gold Rush Sesquicentennial Lectures sponsored by the California State University and the California Council for the Humanities continue their series in Sacramento during 1999. Ken Owens of California State University and a MHA friend coordinated the lectures. The series began with Malcolm Rohrbough's talk at the Western History Association Conference and continues through the winter.

MHA members speaking include: on January 27th Elizabeth Jameson, "Where Have all the Young Men Gone? The Social Legacy of the Gold Rush;" on April 21 Jeremy Mouat, "After California: Later Gold Rushes of the Pacific Basin;" and Clark Spence, "From Gold Pans to California Dredges: The Search for Mass Production in Placer Mining."



President's Page

Ever notice that mining has a worse image in the movies than the mafia? Or no image at all. The West remains a realm of the imagination with cowboys, sheriffs, and outlaws as heroes, not hard rock miners. Of course, as a member of an industrial work force the miner lacks the glamour of the lone individual who rides into a frontier town from nowhere like Clint Eastwood, and not many movies are made about factory workers either.

But then what about the prospector? Isn't his -- or her -- story a movie just waiting to be born? Like the mountain man in "Jeremiah Johnson," the prospector is a lone adventurous individual surviving great hardships in the wilderness. Not in the movies. With a few exceptions such as "North to Alaska," the movie prospector is a figure in a morality tale on the corrupting effects of greed. The classic "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" immediately springs to mind, along with lesser films such as "McKenna's Gold."

Then wouldn't the mining engineer in his many exciting races with rivals to be "first on the ground" make an ideal western hero? Like the prospector, his calling takes him to adventures in many exotic locales, and unlike other frontier professionals such as doctors and lawyers (who also receive short shrift in westerns), his work is physical enough to be visually exciting.

Perhaps his disqualification for herohood is that he is perceived as the minion of that arch movie villain, the mining corporation executive. The movie mafia, despite their violence, crimes, and greed, are surrounded with a romantic aura and a haunting theme song. Not so the mining executive, invariably an evil destroyer of the environment. In "Smilla's Sense of Snow," a recent example set in Scandinavia, this standard issue monster orders the murder of a child and displays indifference to the death of workers in his ruthless pursuit of wealth and fame.

Greater realism from Hollywood seems unlikely any time soon. But maybe someday we'll see something comparable to the great Indian reversal. Once upon a time movie Indians were villainous, howling savages torturing innocent settlers. Now they are more often shown as kindly, humorous folk smoking ceremonial pipes and dispensing ancient tribal wisdom. Can we look forward to a movie in which humorous, kindly mining CEOs, gathered in an office and smoking ceremonial cigars, speak gravely of the wisdom of their fathers?

Sally Zanjani
Reno, Nevada

Organization Notes

Mining History Journal. Editor Chris Huggard reports that the 1998 journal is near complete and will be sent to managing editor Charles Hughes for publication. Expect the journal to arrive after the holidays. The 1999 edition will be a special issue on mining in the Southwest. Plans are to have the 1999 journal published by the annual conference.

Rodman Paul Award. During the Sacramento MHA breakfast, president Sally Zanjani presented the Rodman Paul Award to Stanley Paher of Reno, Nevada. A political science graduate from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Stan is best known for his 1970 model study of ghost towns: *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. He has since formed his own publishing company, Nevada Publishing Company, and has issued a series of ghost town and regional studies of the California, Nevada, and Arizona desert country. Stan was also recognized for his sincere efforts to help budding mining history students to mature into contributing scholars. He has been especially thanked by president Zanjani for his help during her first ventures into mining history. The editor shares in that thank you, Stan.

A ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH: The Tenth Conference of the Mining History Association, Ouray, Colorado, June 3-6, 1999. Mark and Karen Vendl report the organization of our tenth meeting is near complete. We will meet at the Ouray Community Center in downtown Ouray. We will not have a conference hotel, but Ouray is filled with small, comfortable hotels and B&Bs. Lodging information can be obtained from the Ouray Chamber Resort Association at 1-800-228-1876 or 907-325-4746 or write Box 145, Ouray, CO 81427 for their free color booklet. Also see their web site: www.ouraycolorado.com

The conference will begin with a reception, include a double-jacking contest/display and lunch in the park and a surface tour of the legendary Camp Bird mine (the owner's daughter once owned the Hope Diamond). The Sunday field trip will weave through the silver and golden threads of the San Juan Range, over Red Mountain Pass to Silverton, the Mayflower mill, underground at the Old One Hundred and other sites.

The program committee is accepting paper proposals (see the page 3 for details).

As a prelude to the conference there will be a retreat to discuss the future of the organization. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. Please let us know at the below address. Until Ouray, tap 'er light. Duane Smith.

**The Mining History Association
Newsletter
Denver, Colorado**

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$25 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.

CALL FOR PAPERS

**TENTH MEETING
OF THE
MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

**OURAY, COLORADO
JUNE 3 - 6, 1999**

The program committee for the Ouray meeting of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (including chair and discussant) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions normally include two or three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no geographic or temporal limits.

Proposals should include an abstract (one paragraph) for each paper, plus biographical information about each presenter and session participant. Please send proposals to the program committee chair by February 15, 1999.

1999 Program Chair:

**Duane A. Smith
Southwest Center, Fort Lewis College
Durango, Colorado 81301
E-mail: smith_d@fortlewis.edu**

Mining History Association Election 1998 Candidates Biographies

Vice-President/President Elect

Richard Graeme, vice-president of operations for the Golden Queen Mining Company, comes from a long line of miners; his ancestors began work at Bisbee, Arizona in 1883, where he too began his mining career. He received his engineering degree from the University of Arizona in 1972. Besides serving in various mining industry capacities at places from Chile to Nome, he has long had an interest in mining history. Dick has published extensively on the history of mining at Bisbee and has contributed to the study of the area's mineralogy. His industrial history of the Copper Queen mine was published in Bisbee, Urban Outpost on the Frontier, Carlos Schwantes, ed. (University of Arizona Press, 1992). The mineral graemite was named for him after a specimen he found as a teenager. He played a significant role in the inventory of the warehouse full of historic records of the U.S. Smelting, Mining & Refining Co. He has participated in MHA meetings and presented a paper at the 1998 MHA conference.

Council (vote for 3)

Liston Leyendecker, professor of history at Colorado State University has been an active member of the Mining History Association since its founding. He has presented papers at the annual meetings and has served on the nominating committee. He has published works on railroad car magnate Pullman and on the silver queen, Georgetown, Colorado.

Charles Hughes is managing editor of the Mining History Journal and operates a consulting firm, Baseline Data, in the Salt Lake City area. He is a Ph.D. candidate at Arizona State University writing a dissertation on the smelters of the Salt Lake Valley.

Erik Nordberg, coordinator with his wife, Jane, of the excellent 1997 MHA conference in Houghton, Michigan, is the University Archivist and director of the Michigan Tech Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections at Houghton. Erik has given papers at MHA meetings, served on the nominating committee and was a member of the program committee for this year's conference in Bisbee. He is interested in Michigan investment and transfer to the new copper regions of the Far West. He is active in a number of historical societies on the local, state and national level.

Nominating Committee

Ruth Ann Gardner, an active member of the MHA since 1991, became interested in mining history shortly after receiving her B. S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nebraska and joined the Kennecott Copper Corporation. Later, after her children were nearly grown, she returned to school to receive an M. S. in Mining Engineering from the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada. Her primary interest is mining machinery and is a volunteer at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center, where she is working with the Joshua Hendy Iron Works collection of 3000 ink-on-linen drawings.

James Edgerley, retired from the mining industry, but keeps active in his avocation, mining history. He has served the MHA in various functions, including serving on the council.

Duane Smith, is well known to members of the MHA. He teaches history at Fort Lewis College, has written twenty-six books, and is an authority on Western mining history.

Book Reviews

Malcolm J. Rohrbough, *Days of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the American Nation*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997. 353 pp. illus., notes, sources.

The California Gold Rush (1849-1855 is Rohrbough's primary emphasis) has received surprisingly sparse over arching historical exploration. Not that the Gold Rush, as a personal chronicle, has been ignored. Seemingly every 49er who saw the elephant wrote his/her observations on the way West. But few historians have had the bravery to tackle this mass of primary micro-documentation and forge an overall meaningful narrative. (This, of course, does not blind one to the significant phasic contributions of twentieth century historians: Mann, Deverell, Johnson, Reid, Caughey, Potter, Holliday, et. al.)

The late Rodman Paul, as Rohrbough pays tribute, came forth with the masterly *California Gold* in 1947. As a broad treatment of one of the greatest migrations in American history, Paul occupied the pinnacle of gold rush historiography until now with the appearance of *Days of Gold*. (In light of contemporary historiography of the West, it is interesting to read in Paul's last paragraph: "at least a dozen nationalities and a half that number of racial strains made major contributions to the progress of mining." p. 340.)

Rohrbough asks, What motivated the gold seekers? His simple answer is that regardless of the expressed rationale they all sought to "escape poverty" -- though for some the experience was a rite of passage to manhood. Rohrbough enumerates several themes embedded in the gold rush experience. First was the "degree of expectations and emotionality" at all levels -- East or West, the restructuring of design of community -- especially the daily challenges of claim jumping, violence, property rights, and criminal deviance. Here Rohrbough agrees with John Reid's

recent *Policing the Elephant* that the emigrant transferred his legal culture from East to West.

Aside from the over-the-rainbow, pot of gold at the end of the last mile of the trail (or over the last wave) the 49er clung to a fervent belief in the Puritan ethic -- that hard work yielded just rewards, so much so that the shock of failure, which the 49er felt with earthquake intensity, often drove him from his golden altar to seek his mammon elsewhere.

The major legacy of the gold rush that Rohrbough perceives was not the mining of gold, but in the Americanization of the emigrants, who now began to link their West with the rest of the nation.

Occasionally, all too occasionally, a book appears that demands immediate applause for its depth of research, its felicity of style and its power of analysis. Such an historiographic model is *Days of Gold*.

Gene M. Gressley
Jacksonville, Oregon
(gold discovered 1851)

Book Notes

A flood of new books and reprints about the Far North has come with the centennial of the **Klondike Gold Rush**. The best scholarly work is by Charlene Porsild, herself a daughter of the Far North. Her *Gamblers and Dreamers, Women, Men and Community in the Klondike* (UBC Press, 6344 Memorial Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2) uses a wealth of statistical data as well as the usual source materials (newspapers, government papers and reports, personal papers, etc) to portray the social and economic world of Dawson, Yukon Territory before, during and after the rush. This book has been needed for a long-time to balance the popular, easy to read, but dated work of Pierre Berton, *Klondike Fever* (1958, still in print).

A diary and photographs acquired at a flea market by Lee Laney

has evolved into the book *Faith of Fools, A Journal of the Klondike Gold Rush* (Washington State University Press, P. O. Box 645910, Pullman, WA 99164-5910). William Shape was a 98er who, like so many, had experiences far more rich than his gold claim.

Miners of another kind are the topic of Bay Ryley's *Gold Diggers of the Klondike, prostitution in Dawson City, Yukon, 1898-1908* (Watson & Dwyer Publishing Ltd., Toronto). Using newspapers, government records and other sources, she describes the gold rush era dance hall queens and red light ladies, and the moralistic reaction against them until their disappearance with the collapse of the rush. More exhaustive and extensive in its coverage is Lael Morgan's *Good Time Girls of the Alaska - Yukon Gold Rush* (Epicenter Press, Box 82368, Kenmore, WA 98028, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping). Morgan's work is more biographical, with a focus on the big name madams or pimps of the gold rush towns, especially Fairbanks, Nome and Dawson.

The University of Alaska Press reprinted the 1898 account by William B. Haskell, *Two Years in the Klondike and Alaska Gold-Fields, 1896-1898*, one of the best contemporary accounts. Haskell was "inside" when the discovery occurred, then was with the stampedes of '98; he recounts the trials of trail and mines. Terrence Cole, professor at the university, provides an introduction that puts the work into context. (UofA Press, P. O. Box 756240, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6240).

Photographic works on the Klondike have also appeared: the Scottwall Associates' *Alaska Gold, Life on the New Frontier, 1898-1906, letters and Photographs of the McDaniel Brothers*, edited by Jeff Kenkell, is on the Seward Peninsula and Nome mining; and Oak Woods Media of P. O. Box 19127, Kalamazoo, MI 49019 has published *One Woman's Gold Rush, Snapshots from Mollie Brackett's Lost Photo Album, 1898-1899* by Cynthia Brackett Driscoll about Skagway and Atlin, B. C.

Report on the Oral History Project

MHA member Lee Swent sent the following report on progress of one of the oral history projects undertaken by the Regional Oral History Office, a division of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, where she is an active force. The story of the McLaughlin Gold Mine in the Knoxville District, California has recently been recorded and compiled by the office:

"New California Gold Rush!" read the headlines, and ensuing activity forced a temporary suspension of trading in Homestake Mining Company stock on the New York Exchange in August, 1978, when the major gold discovery was announced. This was a "new" kind of microscopic gold, recovered in a new way using high-pressure autoclaves without damage to air or water, and a mine in which the landscape is minimally altered because reclamation began concurrently with development. The oral history of the McLaughlin Mine in Knoxville district recounts the impact of industrial activity on a rural community in modern times, when it took five years just to obtain the necessary 327 permits from three counties as well as regional, state, and federal agencies.

The Regional Oral History Office announces the completion of the first volumes in this project, showing the complexity of environmentally responsible mining today.

In volume I, Homestake exploration geologist James Anderson recalls the discovery of gold in a historic mercury mining district, and the development of the ore body. Environmental activist Will Baker tells of efforts to mobilize community opposition to development of the mine. Metallurgical technician Norman Birdsey discusses his training and work in the zero-discharge processing plant which uses a variety of technologies, including a high pressure oxidation system which has been widely copied. Irrigation district manager Brice Bledsoe reviews the measures taken to

protect water quality in the region. Volumes II and III are as rich with information about the conflicts and resolutions, impacts and successes.

Duane Smith, Ft Lewis College and MHA mover and shaker, provides introductions to the volumes. Each volume contains photographs, supplementary material and indexes. The volumes are complimented by earlier oral history projects by the office, such as the interviews with William Wilder, "lucky" discoverer, and William Humphrey, retired president of Homestake.

The oral histories are available for study at the Bancroft Library and at UCLA's Department of Special Collections. Bound, indexed copies may also be obtained at cost from the Regional Oral History Office, 486 Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Or call 510-642-7395.

More from the Archives

Research Travel Awards: The Michigan Tech University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections is offering research support grants for the 1998/1999 academic year. Grants are for up to \$500 and provide support for travel, food, and lodging to carry out research using the collections. Review of applications will begin January 15, 1999. For further info and an application contact: University Archivist, MTU Archives, J. Robert Van Pelt Library, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. e:mail: copper@mtu.edu

Historic Preservation

Ludlow, Colorado, site of the most tragic events of the coal war of 1913-1914, is the focus of an archeological survey and excavation by a team from the State University of New York at Binghamton, the Center for Southwest Studies at the Fort Lewis College, and University of Denver. The team, led by

Randy McGuire of Binghamton, is excavating the site to test how the miners and their families lived day to day before, during and after the strike. On April 20, 1914, the Colorado militia set fire to the tent colony of miners and their families; 11 children and two women suffocated as they hid in one of the cellars dug underneath the tents. Archeologists have been collecting artifacts and identifying and categorizing them in this the second phase of the Colorado Coalfield Project.

Shakespeare, a former silver mining camp south of Lordsburg, New Mexico now an attraction off Interstate-10, was struck by fire last year. The Hill family, owners of the ghost town, have finished reconstruction of the blacksmith shop and has begun work on the General Merchandise building. They are still requesting donations for their worthy project. Write Shakespeare Ghost Town, P. O. Box 253, Lordsburg, NM 88045. Their web site is: www.interart.net/shakespeare/home.html

Thanks to Greg Drew of the Primary Industries and Resources Department of the government of South Australia for sending their latest publication: *Discover South Australia's Mining Heritage Trails*. The color pamphlet describes the historic mining sites available for visitors to tour, which includes the Moonta mine, the Burra mine, and others. For a free copy write him at the department, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide, SA, Australia 5001. For more information about touring South Australia mines see the web site: www.pir.sa.gov.au

Tours: Atalaya Tours sent their latest flyer on mining tours. During 1999 they plan to visit Rio Tinto and SW Spain, Greece and Cyprus, Northern Spain and Portugal, Germany, and Western Britain. For details write Atalaya Tours Ltd, Ceinionfa, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HR, United Kingdom. e:mail is atalayajt@aol.com Say "hi Jamie" and ask for an MHA discount.

The Year of the Reader and Writer

In our last issue we prepared a list of top mining history books as an introduction to the field for the reader. Now, we turn to an introduction for the writer of mining history. In general, questions come in three categories: how do I research mining history, how do I write, and how do I get published.

Researching mining history is probably the most fun for many people. The tales of former mining camps, their residents, and the boom and bust is best portrayed in newspapers nearby or the mining camp itself. Caution must be used since these editors often have a cause -- the booming of their camp -- or need to fill space (Mark Twain details the facility of fabricating "news" in his classic *Roughing It*). Microfilm copies of newspapers can be found at regional libraries or state historical societies.

In the U. S. West, much information can be gleaned from county court house records. Important are the mining deed books and related title records. Fortunate is the researcher studying the founding of a camp who finds the original mining recorder's notebook. Probate and police court dockets are filled with small bits of information that can clarify or illuminate an incident or individual.

Company records are essential to understanding the corporate world of mining. Unfortunately, these are too few in number. If you do have them for your mine or district take time to get an overview of the company from contemporary directories or corporate handbooks (such as the *Copper Handbook*, later *Mines Handbook*), before jumping in. It will help guide you through what may be subtle, but significant. Of course, personal records are best, but these are even scarcer.

Diaries, reminiscences, and travel accounts and their like add color to your area or period. Technical publication and regional mining magazines (*Mining & Scientific Press* and the *Engineering & Mining Journal* are best known but every

state had a regional journal by the early twentieth century) can add broader understanding.

The mechanics of note taking have been described elsewhere (I like Barbara Tuchman's description in her *Practicing History*, but the computer literate can find software for note taking as well).

Compiling all of your notes into a manageable article or book length manuscript is a major task, probably the hardest effort for the beginner. **Writing** is work. It is a challenge to convey to your reader the same wonder and awe that you've had; to also provide the historic data that informs and helps the reader understate your mining history theme, person or event.

At this point, I need to recommend Strunk & White's, *The Elements of Style*. It is a brief book with gems of wisdom for the nonfiction writer. Also, get writing. There are too many searchers of the last fact who fail to put pen to paper. You will find you use far less of your notes than expected (at least you should or your book becomes cumbersome). And the mere starting of writing helps move you along the trail toward your goal. You must enthusiastically want to communicate.

Some simple rules: use an outline to guide you, but don't be afraid to toss it out and begin a new one; distill your notes; never, ever invent; use primary sources over published or secondary works; strive for clarity -- be kind to your reader.

Barbara Tuchman in her essay "In Search of History" and Samuel Eliot Morison's "History as a Literary Art" both are inspirational and often reprinted (look for in print anthologies by these authors). More recently Stephen Cox of the University of Arizona Press provided some guidance to historians. He wrote, simply, "give it your best shot every time." Have your friends critique your writing and, then, give it another shot. Give a paper at the MHA conference to test the waters.

In his essay Cox has ten rules: 1) use Strunk & White; 2) revise; 3) be brief,

4) be positive; 5) be emphatic; 6) be clear; 7) be plain; 8) be exact; 9) be active; and 10) "give it your best shot every time."

Once past the task of composition and your work is ready for a **publisher** to judge be prepared to try, try again. It is important to know what publishers are looking for; send your manuscript to a press that has books on mining topics already in print. They will be more receptive. (The *Writer's Market* and annual directory of the Association of American University Presses will help here -- copies are found in major libraries.)

Send a brief query letter that explains your manuscript's topic and your background. If the publisher responds in the positive send a solid, clean proposal (first impressions do count). The submittal should include a clean manuscript with title, contents page, notes, your brief biographical statement, and marketing suggestions.

If you have just written a thesis or dissertation you should read and use Savoie Lottinville, *The Rhetoric of History* (University of Oklahoma Press) before sending the "magnum opus" to a press. Also, your college advisor is your best friend at this point of your career, so be sure to consult with them. (This introduction is really geared to the generalists interested in publication rather than the academically trained seeking to make tenure).

Do not omit the possibility of self-publishing. Presses have tight budgets and may be hesitant to enter a limited market. Self-publishing through local print shops has an honorable tradition and many well-known writers began that way. Muriel Sibel Wolle comes to mind -- her 1949 *Stampede to Timberline*, about Colorado ghost towns was self printed. The book was reviewed in *Time* and other big magazines; many editions later, it is still in print by Swallow Press.

We hope you have found some guidance here. Also, we want to leave with a demand: get writing!

More Organization Notes:

Founding Fathers Arise!! Mothers too!! The meeting at Ouray will be our tenth anniversary. It is time to reflect on where we have been. I am looking for reminiscences of our organizing meeting in a smoke filled hotel room. You know who you are, please send along your memories. Even E-mail will do: smith_d@fortlewis.edu Has anyone any idea where Mike Ostrogorsky is? One of our founding fathers has disappeared!! I'm also accepting any highlights any of you might remember from any of our first meetings. Please send them along to Duane A. Smith, Southwest Center, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado 81301. Also, the **MHA Archives**, are located here. Do you have any photographs or other materials from the MHA meetings, trips, or get togethers? Now is the time to contribute, we are only ten years old!

Miner Poems and Music

John O'Donnel of Canada has researched and recorded coal and other mining songs. The tunes are available on CD or tape. O'Donnell has also published a book on mining songs: *And Now the Fields are Green*. For information see his website: www.stfx.ca/people/jodonnell/

Mason Coggin, coordinator of our Bisbee conference, has recorded a number of miner's poems in his "Rhymes of the Mines, Recitation from Life in the Underground." The 19 poems range from the well-known versus of Robert Service and classics like "My Sweetheart's a Mule in the Mine" to original compositions by Mason. Copies are available from Cowboy Miner Productions, P. O. Box 9674, Phoenix, AZ 85068.

More Book Notes

The Ignoble Conspiracy: Radicalism on Trial in Nevada, by Sally Zanjani and Guy Louis Rocha (1986), the book that won posthumous pardons for union radicals Morrie Preston and Joseph Smith, is going out of print. Members interested in obtaining copies for \$7.98 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling should contact University of Nevada Press at their toll free number, 800-877-682-6657, or their mailing address: Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557-0076.

For the Ouray Conference. Suggestions for winter reading: two by Duan Smith *Silverton, A Quick History*, and *Song of the Hammer and Drill, the Colorado San Juans 1860-1914*; and P. David Smith, *Ouray, A Quick History*, deals specifically with our host mountain mining camp.

Mining History Association

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