Third Annual Conference

Your officers have been busy organizing the third annual Mining History Conference to be held in Boise, Idaho. Boise State University will host our conference on the campus on the banks of the beautiful Boise River. We will have a full four days of activities, starting with an optional workshop on historic preservation issues. Specialists in the field will discuss how to recognize, interpret, and preserve mining sites. The Idaho Historical Society will co-host a reception Thursday to kick off the meeting. Two days of papers and discussions will be followed by tours to the placer mining areas of Boise Basin and a day tour of the hard rock Owyhee District around Silver City. We will conclude the tour as a guest of the NERCO mine operation at Delamar.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference write Ronald Brown, Southwest Texas State University, History Department, San Marcos, Texas 78666-4616. Or call him at 512-245-2116.

A number of people are helping locally and deserve a tip of the hat. Thanks to Tom Greene, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Merle Wells, both of the Idaho Historical Society, for orchestrating local arrangements and tours. Robert Sims, Dean of the Social Science Department at Boise State University has helped provide meeting space.

Robert Romig, a practical miner from Rocky Bar, will be our guide to Idaho City. The Forest Service’s Boise National Forest office and the Idaho State Office, Bureau of Land Management will also provide support and assistance to the conference.

Underground Mine tours

In the last issue we mentioned three underground mine tours, at Ogdensburg, New Jersey, Cripple Creek, Colorado, and Soudan, Minnesota. Since then, members have sent information on other tours: the Phoenix Mine at Idaho Springs, the Bachelor mine at Ouray, the Lebanon mine at Georgetown, and the Washington mine at Breckenridge, all in Colorado. In Arizona, the Copper Queen underground tour at Bisbee is exceptional. In August, retired miners at Eureka, Utah lead underground tours for the Tintic Historical Society. On the Comstock lode is the Chollar-Potosi tour. At Bonne Terre, Missouri the venue includes scuba diving to see the relics. Plattesville, Wisconsin has a lead mine to see as does the silver-lead country of Wallace, Idaho. The British have an underground tour with computer simulating blasts and operations -- not comparable to the Thunder Mountain ride and "mining" scenes at Disneyland. The Mining History Association now has an extensive file on underground tours. We would welcome a thorough description and critique of a mine attraction for our readers.
President Russ Elliott has agreed to provide his editorial space to a review of our recent questionnaire sent to members. The questionnaires were in the last newsletter. We have received 123. A summary of information follows:

A majority of MHA members are interested in all types of mining. The questionnaire was criticized for not including such obvious metals as iron and silver, while other members noted a lack of radium, vanadium, etc. Gold mining followed all as an area of interest.

The period 1848-1910 was given as the favored era, though close behind were those who wrote-in all. One member scribbled on the questionnaire that one good book on 1830s-50s Appalachian gold and copper would be just as eagerly read as a new one on Colorado.

Thirty-three locations were recommended for an annual conference, excluding Virginia City/Reno, Leadville, Boise, and Deadwood, where the association has or will meet. No one area received an overwhelming number of votes. Number one was the Mother Lode country of California, followed by Butte and then Bisbee, Platteville, Wisconsin/Galena, Illinois/Dubuque, Iowa -- the upper Mississippi lead region -- was fourth. Other areas that received five or more votes were Cripple Creek/Victor, Tonopah, Houghton, St. Louis and vicinity, Silver City, New Mexico, Breckenridge, Colorado, El Paso and vicinity, Spokane and vicinity, and Alaska (several locals).

Members recommended an array of museums worthy of a side trip: the Western Museum of Mining and Industry at Colorado Springs was the favorite, or most often recommended. Several California state parks were recommended: Bodie, Malakoff Diggins, Empire mine, and New Bloomfield. Helper and Eureka, Utah each have mining museums and attractions worth visiting.

The Arizona Historical Society museum and the Colorado Historical Society's Georgetown Loop Mining and Railroad Historical Park are good.

The question about how members were involved in mining brought the remark "just a buff" from many respondents. At the same time they marked two or three of the other choices (i.e. geologist, books) as well. So an "average" profile can not be made. The group appears to be a healthy mix of buffs, industry people and those students/scholars trying to preserve the mining past through museums, historic preservation or research and writing.

Finally, 60% of the respondents favored a dues increase in order to support a journal. Several members recommended thoroughly reviewing the publication of a journal in this era of high costs and library cut-backs. The journal or publication of an annual will be reviewed at the Boise meeting.

President Russ Elliott's comments will be in the next newsletter's President's Page.

Vice-president Stan Dempsey sent a flyer on the second volume of History of Mining in Arizona, published by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration. For a copy call 602-622-6257 or write Mining Club of the Southwest, P. O. Box 27225, Tucson, AZ 85726.

A suggestion for reprinting: Eedward Muybridge's book of photographs titled Mining Scenes in California (1867?)

Brits to Meet

The British National Association of Mining History Organizations will be meeting in Shropshire, June 27-28, 1992. The event will occur at Ironbridge Gorge Museum and include workshops, seminars, surface and underground field trips. For more information write Adrian Pearce, 72, Hopkins Heath, Shawbirch, Telford, Shropshire TF5 OLZ, United Kingdom. The association's pamphlets on "Code of Practice for Mine Exploration," and "Code of Practice for Mineral Collecting at Disused Mines" are helpful and available from the same address.
THIRD MEETING
OF THE
MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

BOISE, IDAHO
JUNE 4-7, 1992

All conference meetings will be held on the
Campus of
Boise State University, Boise, Idaho.

The Conference agenda will include:

June 4, Thursday, Historic Preservation Workshop
   Evening reception at the Idaho Historical Society
June 5, Friday, Welcome. Conference papers and discussions
   Evening banquet
June 6, Saturday, Conference papers and discussions
   President’s luncheon
   Afternoon tour of Idaho City and the Boise basin mines.
June 7, All day tour of Silver City historic sites
   and NERCO’s operating Delamar silver mine

A more complete agenda and registration materials will be mailed
in May.

contact the MHA, P.O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215.

Hotels/Motels near Boise State University are:

The Boisean Motel, 1300 S. Capitol Blvd (83706), 208-343-4823
Boulevard Motel, 1121 S. Capitol Blvd (83706), 208-342-4629
Ramada Inn, 1025 S. Capitol Blvd (83706), 208-344-7971
University Inn, 2360 University Dr at Capitol Blvd (83706), 208-345-7170

Boise sites:

Across the Boise River from Boise State University and Julia Davis Park is the Idaho Historical Society Museum at 610 N. Julia Davis Drive. The society’s preservation office is in the former U. S. Assay Office (built 1870-1), a National Historic Landmark.

During June, "Alive after Five" occurs downtown every Wednesday. A farmers market and musicians brings people to the Grove, in the heart of down town.

The Owyhee Candy Company plant is near the university. Those pilgrims after the famous "Idaho Spud" candy bar can find more of them in Boise than anywhere else in the world. Those who have never tasted this gourmet specialty should not miss the opportunity.

Joggers note: the Boise greenbelt follows the Boise River for thirteen miles. Boise State University is at the center of the greenbelt. If you don’t jog, bring your inner tube for a leisurely float.
Registration for the Mining History Associations third annual conference to be held in Boise, Idaho June 4-7.

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

Enclosed is a check for:
registration ($10)

Optional:
Friday banquet ($12)
Saturday Presidential Luncheon ($10)
Saturday afternoon tour of Boise Basin ($15)
Sunday tour of Silver City and lunch ($30)
total enclosed......................

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

Nestled at the edge of a huge boulder field in the Mojave Desert of Southern California is a two-stamp gold mill which is virtually complete and potentially operable. The Wall Street Gold Mill, in Joshua Tree National Monument, dates from the Depression-era gold rush, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. William F. (Bill) Keys, a quintessential desert rat, operated the Wall Street as a custom mill from 1931 to 1942. The atypically small size of the two-stamp mill was appropriate for the small-scale mining that was conducted in the region.

The Wall Street Mill consists of a conglomeration of equipment which Keys assembled from mines and mills in the area, dating from circa 1891 to the 1930's. The plant contains a grizzly, a Fulton Engine Works jaw crusher, an 1891 Baker Iron Works two-stamp mill, an amalgamation table, a Myer concentration table, and a twelve horsepower Western gasoline engine which provided power through a system of shafts, belts and pulleys.

An Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) team from the National Park Service documented the structure in the summer of 1991. They produced measured architectural drawings, a history, a historical archeology report, and photographs which will be deposited in the Library of Congress and will be available to researchers.

Lysa Wegman-French
Boulder, Colorado

The Last Stamp Mill

How many original stamp mills are left, in place, with all their machinery, or at least most of it? Bodie State Park in California has the ten stamp Standard mill from the 1890s. An odd seven stamp mill, the Sound Democrat of 1905-6 vintage, is on Bureau of Land Management land in the San Juan Mountains above Silverton, Colorado. Are there any others? If so, the Historic American Engineering Record would like to learn about them. Write Eric DeLony, HAER, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, D. C., 20013-7127 or Greg Kendrick, HAER, Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service, P. O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225.

Book Notes


A book length treatment of the rush to South Pass City has been recently published. Marion McMillan Huscas, Sweetwater Gold, Wyoming's Gold Rush, 1867-1871 (Old Army Press, 1991, $29.95) explains the discovery and operation of mines, the establishment of cities and businesses, and the social fabric. She concludes with a chapter on Esther Morris and Woman Suffrage; Wyoming led the nation in passing a suffrage bill in 1869 that began by the actions of Esther, a South Pass City resident.

Another book about growing up in a copper camp has come to light. Paul M. Jones in Memories of Santa Rita recounts his early years in the New Mexico community, its mine, the company store and houses, of living in a small social circle headed by management's families, and anecdotes of school days, prohibition and other events from 1923 to 1938. The Memories first appeared in the Silver City Daily Press (P.O.Box 740, Silver City, NM 88062) and has been assembled in book form for $8.95.

Gary Caldwell has expanded his earlier study of the Lake Mining District, Mono County, California into Mammoth Gold, The Ghost Towns of Lake District (Mammoth Lakes, District: Genny Smith Books, 1990, $10.95). Professor Caldwell combines an overview of the history of the Lake District, which swiftly went from boom to bust in the late 1870s and early 1880s because of rampant speculation, with an evaluation of the archeological record at the ghost towns of Mammoth, Pine City, and other historical locals. The book provides an analysis of what occurred during the active mining years as well as a study of the historic landscape left for us today. It is a fine job.
Silver City, Idaho

Among the mining camps that came into existence in the 1860s in Idaho, Silver City retains the most of its historic structures. Its setting in a vale of the Owyhee Mountains adds to the beauty and historic associations. The community has boomed and gone bust several times, and is today near a new heap leach operation, the most recent of the areas mining revivals. The history of the camp includes many notable, among them Big Bill Haywood. The tour to Silver City will include the community, its historic architecture, the surrounding mine ruins, and will end at the new heap leach operation at NERCO’s Delamar mine. The dirt and gravel road to Silver City leads up from the sage brush of the Snake River valley into the cool pinon pine-covered slopes of the Owyhees. Dress comfortably with good walking shoes. The Idaho Hotel will be our lunch stop followed by a walking tour of the town and a visit to the museum. Depending on road conditions, we will drive to nineteenth century mine sites before stopping at the Delamar mine.

Bill Haywood was on trial for the murder of Idaho’s governor when this song was written. His daughter Henrietta, born at Silver City in 1897, graced the cover. He was found not guilty.
More Book Notes

Member Patricia Roppel sent a copy of her *Fortunes from the Earth, an History of the Base and Industrial Minerals of Southeast Alaska* (Sunflower University Press, 1531 Yuma, Box 1009, Manhattan, Kansas 66502-4228, $18.95). Pat has written extensively on Alaska mining and in this, her latest book, she details the history of copper, silver, marble, and base or rare metals found in this region of Alaska. Particularly informative are the essays on the copper camps that were developed around Ketchikan at the turn-of-the-century. Like the rest of the West, Alaska was not immune to the frenzied financing of plants that absorbed more investor's cash than produced the red metal. The book is divided into histories of each important mineral producer; photographs and maps aid the reader. Recent photographs of the sites tempt one to follow her steps, even though the sites may be reached only by fishing boat or float plane. Pat concludes with a brief commentary on the state of mining today.


Alan Hensher has sent *Ghost Towns of the Mojave Desert, a Concise and Illustrated Guide* (California Classic Books, Post Office Box 29756, Los Angeles, California 90029, 63 pages, $14.50), an expansion of his 1979 pamphlet on the region. Some 100 locals are described in photograph and text, including information on how to reach each camp. Because of the books large format, maps and photographs are well reproduced. He is a ghost town adventurer who invites all to share the desert country. As Alan says, "visit the sites. Feel the wind and take in the colors of the hills, the brush, the sky."

Paul Dean Proctor and Morris A. Shirts, *Silver, Sinners & Saints A History of Old Silver Reef, Utah* (Paulmar, Inc., 1991, $19.95) treats in text and photographs the boom and bust at this southwest Utah silver camp. Silver Reef's history resembles that of its Nevada neighbors in the Great Basin during the 1870s. The authors, a geologist and education professor, thoroughly describe the towns, mines, and recent history of the area, including the preservation of the well-known Silver Reef Wells, Fargo office. The book lacks footnotes, but has an extensive bibliography.

Research

The American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, P. O. Box 3924, Laramie, Wyoming 82071 is accepting applications for travel grants of $500 to assist researchers using the collections. Write them for an application form and further information. The application deadline is April 15.

John M. Townley, Director of Great Basin Studies Center (1945 Fourth Street #21, Sparks, Nevada 89431) is preparing a two volume bibliography of world mining. Our readers will recognize Dr. Townley as author of a number of excellent works on Nevada mining. He has approximately 1500 entries on the California Gold Rush alone. This is a long needed aid.

Member Ross Mainwaring of 5 Sheather Ave., St. Ives 2075, Sydney, Australia is seeking assistance on builder numbers for General Electric and Manacha mine locomotives. The companies report to have lost their records and Mr. Mainwaring is interested in information on builder numbers and disposition; a number of G. E. and Mancha locomotives were used in Australia.

Member Sally Zanjani is researching "pick and shovel prospector" women and requests the assistance of our readers. Anyone with pre-1950 with information on mining women should write her at 4360 Slide Mountain Cir., Reno, NV 89511.

A "facsimile reproduction" of *A Historical, Descriptive and Commercial Directory of Owyhee County, Idaho* (1898) is available for $8.50 from Shorey Book Store, 815 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104. The 140 page book is typical booster literature, published during Silver City's turn-of-the-century boom. It includes biographies of prominent people and descriptions of mines, among them the Delamar.
Recent publications on the history of mining

The following is a partial list of articles and dissertations published in the past two years compiled by Lysa Wegman-French. If we have missed an item, let us know.


Zanjani, Sally S. "To Die in Goldfield [Nevada]: Mortality in the Last Boomtown on the Mining Frontier." *Western Historical Quarterly* 21 (February 1990): 47-69.


Member Lee Behrens is interested in reprinting needed historic mining books. If you have a specific suggestion write Lee at P. O. Box 1035, Georgetown, Colorado 80444

Members interested in book dealers that stock mining history books, new and used, should write for the catalogs of: Bohling Book Company, P. O. Box 204, Decatur, Michigan 49045; The Book Lode, 3060 15th St., Boulder, Colorado 80304; Gold Hill Books, P. O. Box 1523, Longmont, Colorado 80502; and Nevada Publications, 4135 Badger Circle, Reno, Nevada 89509.
Historic Preservation

South Pass City Historic Site managers are preparing a Cultural Resource Management Plan for this Wyoming State park. Individuals interested in participating in the planning process should write Kenneth C. Brecht, Superintendent, South Pass City State Historic Site, Route 62, Box 170, South Pass City, Wyoming 82520.

The Cumbria County Council of the North Pennines Heritage Trust has prepared a "Feasibility Study" for the Nenthead Lead Mining Centre, Cumbria, England. Mining in the North Pennines began in the Middle Ages and continued until the 1960s. Most of the remains date from the eighteenth and nineteenth century, when the area was one of the richest lead mining centers. The study proposes a heritage center interpreting the site's 1790 workshops, assay house, smelt mill, and other structures. The plan also proposes an extensive underground mine tour at Smallcleugh, something Americans too often exclude in their mine site preservation projects. For more information or a copy of the feasibility study write Ray Forrester, North Pennines Heritage Trust, Barhaugh, Kirkhaugh, Alston, CA9 3NJ, United Kingdom.

Museum notes

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Leadville, is completing their underground mine exhibit. It is a life-size replica of an adit with mine stations, chutes, winding drift, drills, cars and rail. The mine exhibit was designed by Carl Miller, executive director of the museum, and for 27 years a miner at Climax Moly. The museum has also started a library. Mining History Association members are invited to contribute to the library by donating books to the NMHFM at P. O. Box 981, Leadville, CO 80461.

The Nevada State Railroad Museum is a technology museum focusing on the railroads of Nevada and the industries associated with them, most notably mining. They are best known for their accurate restoration of nineteenth century locomotives. They are interested in expanding their coverage of Nevada mining as well as developing a publishing program, especially of appropriate historical reprints. Members interested in learning more about the museum or participating in its activities should write: Nevada State Railroad Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, Nevada 89710.

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