

# MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 5 · February 1994 · Number 1

## Third International

The combined Mining History Association conference and Third International Mining History Conference and Symposium on the Preservation of Historic Mining Sites is set to begin 6:00 p. m., Sunday, June 5, 1994, at the Colorado School of Mines, in Golden. The conference is dedicated to an international exchange of ideas, concepts, and techniques to help us better understand the mining past.

The week-long conference will be limited to 300 participants. Conference program committee chair, Professor Clark C. Spence of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has a preliminary agenda, which will be set by April. Speakers include academicians researching and writing in the field, members of industry, and museum and preservation specialists. Participants will travel from all continents, except Antarctica.

The Symposium on the Preservation of Historic Mining Sites will include exchanges of concepts and philosophies about preservation. Tours and workshops will include Leadville and the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum and Cripple Creek and the Western Museum of Mining and Industry.

The tentative program outline is as follows:

Sunday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m., early registration, welcoming reception, opening session.

Monday, June 6, registration, formal

presentations, and tour and reception at Colorado Historical Society Museum, Denver.

Tuesday, June 7, formal presentations and tour/workshop to Georgetown mining and railroad museum.

Wednesday, June 8, formal presentations and free evening.

Thursday, June 9, all day tours/workshops to Cripple Creek and Leadville.

Friday, June 10, formal presentations, closing remarks.

The conference is a rare opportunity, probably the last meeting in the United States for a decade or more (previous meetings were held in Melbourne in 1983 and Bochum, Germany in 1989).

Registrants are responsible for making their own lodging and travel arrangements. A list of accommodations in Golden can be obtained from the Special Programs and Continuing Education Program Office, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, 80401. Golden West Airport Shuttle Service may be contacted at 303-422-1277 for service from the Denver airport to Golden hotels.

For additional information about the conference contact: Robert Spude, Conference Coordinator, National Park Service, RMR-PR, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80225 or The Special Programs and Continuing Education Office, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO 80401.

Registration materials will be included in the next newsletter.

## Map of Tintic

The Tintic Historical Society has reprinted a map of that rich district in Utah. The colored map, originally published in 1927, shows prominent mines and towns, plus a bar graph of district production. The first mine, the Sunbeam, was located in 1869 and the district continues to produce. Historians have failed to give the district its due notice, possibly because it lacked the modern day lure of skiing like Park City or the awesome scale of mining such as at Bingham Canyon. The historical society operates a museum and tours of the district. Profits for the map helps the society's work. Copies can be obtained for \$16 (plus \$2.75 shipping and handling) from the THS at P. O. Box 218, Eureka, UT 84268. A portion of the map has been reproduced on the back page of this newsletter.



### **The President's Page**

In a vale outside of Athens are the remains of the mines of Laurium. Fifth century B. C. wash plants and mine workings dot the landscape, evidence of the activity of the ancients. Silver from Laurium created wealth for individuals, provided metal for specie, and funded the construction of a fleet that saved classical Athens from invasion during the Persian wars. I recently visited the great mining area, a place which captures the imagination of travellers.

What is surprising about Laurium is the lack of protection or interpretation of the area's abundant antiquities, and of the artifacts of more modern mining by a French owned company during the last two centuries. The world renowned mines of Laurium are little visited and are neglected by all but a few local enthusiasts who work hard to maintain a small museum.

As we meet for the combined Mining History Association and the Third International Mining History conference, I look forward to discussions and debates about our broader world of mining history. Such sites as Laurium need to be recognized for their international significance.

I hope our exchange of ideas June 6-10 at the Colorado School of Mines can lead to some resolutions or recommendations on internationally significant properties. How many sites have been nominated to the World Heritage list.? How can we protect and interpret important historic mining sites without sterilizing the opportunities for renewed mining? And how far should we allow governments to go with cleanup of old mine sites where historic workings are involved.?

In that vein, the association is interested in other suggestions for resolutions or recommendations from participants during our International conference. Please let me know your thoughts.

Stan Dempsey  
Denver, Colorado

### **Organization Notes**

Jeremy Mouat and Sally Zanjani were elected to the Mining History Association council for three year terms, 1994-1996. Charles Hughes, Lynn Langenfeld, and Robert Trennert were elected as the nominating committee for 1994.

**1994 Officers:** Stan Dempsey, president, Duane Smith, vice-president, Ronald Brown, treasurer, Robert Spude, secretary.

**Council:** Betsey Jameson, 1992-4, Carlos Schwantes, 1992-4, Michael Ostrogorsky, 1992-4, Jay Fell, 1993-5, Noel Kirshenbaum, 1993-5, Jeremy Mouat, 1994-6, Sally Zanjani, 1994-6.

**Recipients of Rodman Paul Award:** Russell Elliott, William Greever, W. Turrentine Jackson, Watson Parker, Duane Smith, Clark Spence, Merle Wells, Otis Young.

**Past Presidents:** Clark C. Spence and Russell Elliott.

### **The MHA Journal**

Editor John Townley reports great progress on the first issue of the Mining History Association's journal. Nineteen manuscripts have been submitted for consideration, four of which have been through the review process and are ready for typesetting. "A nice mixed-bag of articles," John reports.

The first issue of the journal will be ready by June, in time for the Third International conference. A title for the journal has yet to be selected. If you have a creative gene and are interested in suggesting a name please write John Townley, Great Basin Studies Center, 5480 Goldenrod, Reno, NV 8951.

Also, if you have a favorite graphic that illustrates a point, John Townley needs one or two as fillers to dress up blank half pages.

### **Congratulations**

The Westerners International awarded Sally Zanjani their prize for best book of the year, for her Goldfield, the Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier. Published by Swallow Press, the book details the discovery, boom and bust of this exceptional bonanza camp located in the desert country of southern Nevada.

### **Conferences**

At the annual Society for Historical Archeology conference held January 5-9, 1994 in Vancouver, a half day session was devoted to the archeology of mining sites. The papers ranged from analyzing ore from the sixteenth century "mine" of explorer Martin Frobisher to a look at early twentieth century "blow-off" towns adjacent Nevada Consolidated's company town. Types of surveys were discussed, using case studies on Chinese in Idaho, the mining sites of Alaska, and of Southern California. Coordinator Michael Sampson should be congratulated for organizing an enlightening session. For more details write him at 4640 E. Talmadge Dr., San Diego, CA 92116-4849. Besides the half day session, other papers on mining site archeology were sprinkled through the agenda. Archeologists working in Canada, presented papers on recent work in the great white north.

#### **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.

### Book Notes

The Illinois State Historical Society has published the results of its oral history study of coal mining in Christian County. Divided Kingdom, Work Community and the Mining Wars in the Central Illinois Coal Fields During the Great Depression is available for \$12.50 (plus \$1 postage and handling) from the society at ISHS, Book Department, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 6270.

William Cronon's essay "Kennecott Journey, the Paths out of Town," in William Cronon, George Miles, and Jay Gitlin, ed., Under an Open Sky, Rethinking America's Western Past (New York: Norton, 1992), although redundantly romantic about the ghost town of Kennecott, Alaska, has insightful comments about mining camp history, especially the need to look more broadly into natural and environmental questions, into the contrasts between Native American intensive use of an area vs. Euro-American isolation in such an environment, connected to its outside world by a lifeline -- railroad or road outside -- and the social/economic mosaic laid down on the landscape of such camps. Other essays in this collection by New West historians only briefly mention mining history. The authors, however, do add to the debate on the study of Native Americans, gender, minorities, and regionalism.

The Summit Historical Society is an active group in Dillon-Frisco-Breckenridge, Colorado. Besides preserving and interpreting their area's history they also have published a series of books on this well-known mining area. Their most recent addition is Sandra F. Pritchard's Roadside Summit, Part II, the Human Landscape. (Part I deals with the natural landscape). Pritchard describes the mining, mining camp (urban), transportation, and agricultural landscape of the Summit county, located at the head of the Blue River, across the continental divide from

Denver. The well documented book includes period graphics to help the reader understand the evolution of the region, from the placer boom of the 1860s through the dredging era. The book ends with a travelogue of the district. The Summit Historical Society should be congratulated on the quality of photograph reproductions and of the text in general. Copies are available from them at P. O. Box 747, Dillon, CO 80435, cost \$8.

The Mayville Historical Society has published a 750 page volume on the iron industry of Dodge County, Wisconsin. When Iron was King by local historian George G. Frederick chronicles the people, events and corporations that shaped the iron mining and smelting industry between 1845 and 1928. The book is well documented and includes 400 photographs. For copies write Mayville Historical Society, P. O. Box 106, Mayville, WI 53050. Cost \$34.95.

The Mayo Historical Society of Mayo, Yukon Territory has published an elaborate, well illustrated history of mining in this isolated regions. Gold & Galena, a History of the Mayo District, Linda E. T. MacDonald and Lynette R. Bleiler, compilers, details the mining history of the region from just before the Klondike strike to the north through recent silver-lead mining at Keno. Mayo served as the river port and jump-off point for the rich mines nearby. Over half of the book's 502 pages is dedicated to "pioneer accounts," some good at filling in gaps in the personal side of the region's history. Copies are available from the Mayo Historical Society, P. O. Box 32, Mayo, Y.T., Canada, Y0B 1M0.

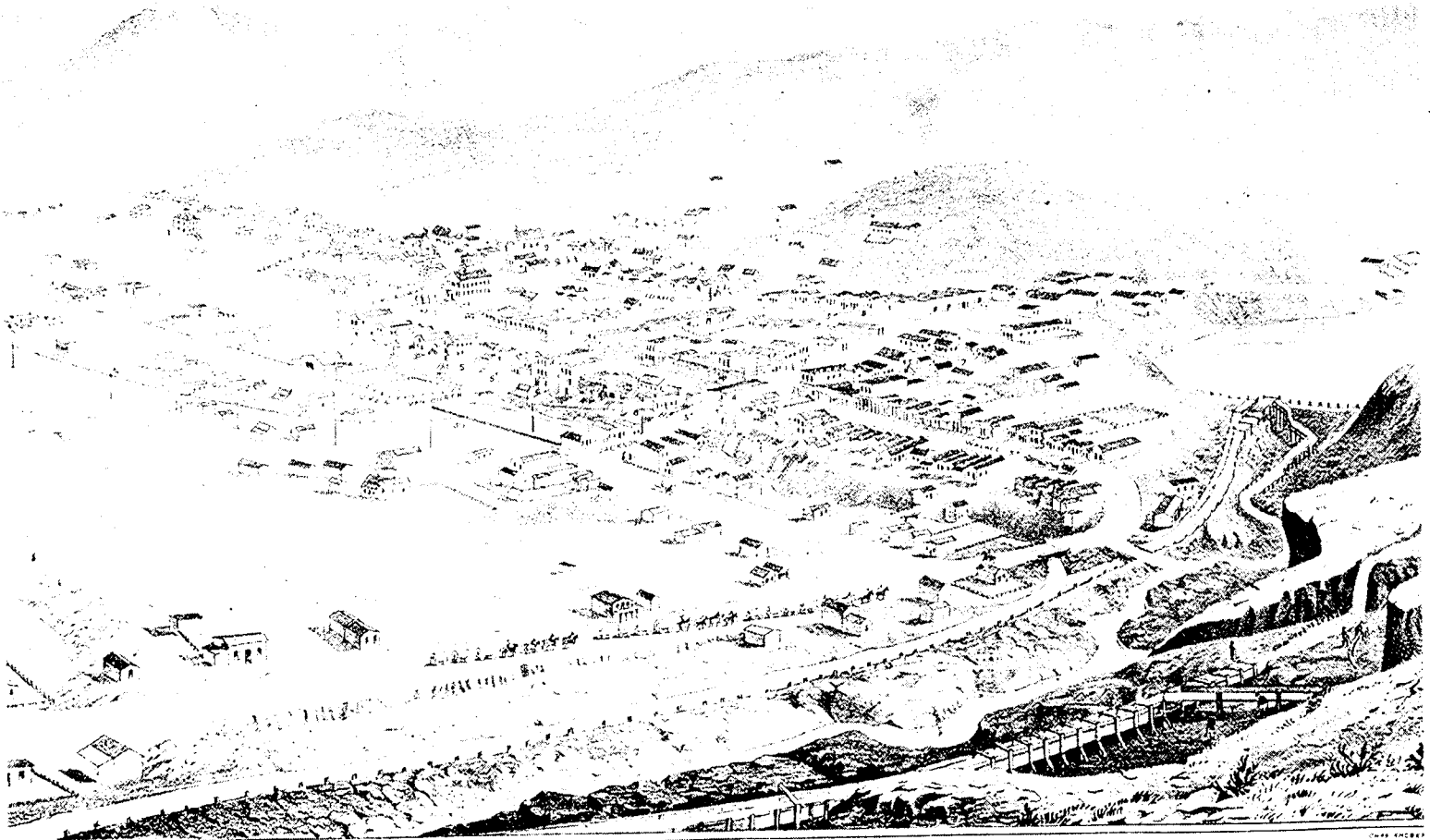
The revived gold camp of Hedges-Tumco has been the subject of a recent archeological survey by Michael S. Burney and Associates, P. O. Box 7063, Boulder, CO 80306. The results of that work is a detailed report titled "The Results of Historical Research, Oral

History, Inventory, and Limited Test Excavations Undertaken at the Hedges/Tumco Historic Townsite, Oro Cruz Operation, Southwestern Cargo Muchacho Mountains, Imperial County, California." Of the hundreds of small, little-known gold camps that once operated in the Southwest, none have been as thoroughly researched as in this report of Hedges/Tumco.

Ghost town books give thumbnail sketches, but this is a thorough survey of sources, contains rare historic photographs, and includes oral histories to provide details. Gold had been discovered in the area prior to 1848, but the boom occurred in the 1880s, after the nearby construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The most prosperous years, between 1893 and 1917, coincided with the construction of big mills, introduction of the cyanide process, and the development of a jacal and adobe, frame and corrugated metal camp. The authors discuss life in the camp and then explain how archeological evidence filled in the written record on the divers population.

Archeological survey data is explained and artifact inventories are reproduced in tables. The authors include a National Register evaluation. The volume is an excellent contribution to the field of historic archeology, though, because it is classed as "grey literature," will be seen by few. It deserves a wider audience.

Arthur E. Smith, Jr. has sent us a copy of his recent "Bibliography of Colorado Mining History." The 45 page booklet includes a list of important publications and a useful index of people, places, mines, and minerals. Researchers will find this a useful tool in quickly finding contemporary publications and histories. Copies can be obtained for \$9.95 plus \$1.50 for shipping from L. R. Ream Publishing, P. O. Box 2043, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816-2043.



1750-1875  
 Virginia City was founded in 1862, at the junction of Doyle's and Allen Gulches,  
 in the center of a large mining and stockraising country.  
 Among its Public Buildings are:

No. 1 Public School  
 2 Mason County Court House  
 No. 3 Current Hotel  
 4 Virginia City Hotel

VIEW OF

## VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA T Y , 1875.

Virginia City is the starting point for Tourists to the Yellowstone National Park.  
 The Famous Geysers Region on the Madison River is ninety miles distant by good  
 wagon road.

There are three Church Buildings  
 No. 9 Episcopal Church

Distance to Coonine 390 Miles  
 4 Stations 130

### Preservation

The National Park Service has initiated a study of alternatives for preservation of Virginia City, Montana. The 1860s gold camp and former territorial capital is one of the rarest of mining camps, one of wood not devastated by a major fire. The Bovey family and other residents had preserved the community and created an attraction for visitors by the 1950s. Since the deaths of Sue and Charles Bovey options for seeing long-term preservation have been sought. If you have suggestions for the National Park Service study, complete and return the enclosed questionnaire.

Member R. J. Dames sent a clipping announcing that the last mine openings of the famous **Schuyler copper mines** in North Arlington, New Jersey have been sealed. The mine, first worked during the colonial period, was the recent scene of subsidence, sometimes in the backyards of unaware neighbors. The operation closed early in the twentieth

century, but many of the adits, shafts, and air holes were left open.

At the conference on "Inactive and Abandoned **Hardrock Mine Waste Cleanup: A Challenge for the 90s**" held in Salt Lake City November 15-17, 1993, Mining History Association president Stan Dempsey spread the good word about taking into consideration the preservation of historic mining sites. On a panel on the Nature and Extent of the clean-up problem he reiterated the concern of many mining site preservationists that clean-up work have too often failed to take into account historic preservation issues.

Historic surveys of mining sites can be dangerous, none more so than underground surveys. That is why there are so few of them. A good example, however, is William G. White and Ronald M. James, with the assistance of Donald Hardesty, "**Little Rathole on the Big Bonanza: Historical and Archeological Assessment of an**

**Underground Resource,**" Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Carson City, Nevada. The report details the evaluation of underground resources in a corner of the Comstock lode being explored by Raddco Industries. A cache of equipment and gear was found as well as information about the working habits of Comstock miners. A copy of the report can be obtained from Ron James, State Historic Preservation Officer, 123 W. Nye Lane, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710.

"The Real West" television show on the Arts and Entertainment cable network have been highlighting stories about the mining frontier, and the historic communities that have survived mining booms and busts. Upcoming shows will include an hour long program on the Klondike gold rush and its aftermath. The crew was recently in Skagway and Dawson, and along the gold rush trail.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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Developing ideas and concepts for the long-term preservation, interpretation, and management of the important resources and stories of Virginia City is a complex, yet challenging and fun, undertaking. It does require, however, intensive planning and cooperation between the community's citizens, friends of Virginia City, and the various public and private parties involved. The following questions are designed to obtain your opinions regarding a number of issues important to this study. Please take time to provide us with your thoughts and comments in response to each of the questions.

1. What is your dream for Virginia City?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What ideas, stories, and information about Virginia City are important to share with visitors?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What concerns do you have for Virginia City? What positive or negative impacts might additional tourism have on Virginia City?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do you believe are the most important historic resources in Virginia City?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Other Comments?

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To be certain you are on our mailing list for future planning documents, please fill in the following information. Also, if you know of someone who would like to be on the mailing list, please include their information.

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<hr/> <b>City</b> <b>State</b> <b>Zip Code</b>	<hr/> <b>City</b> <b>State</b> <b>Zip Code</b>

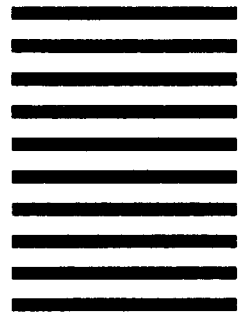
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ATTN: VIRGINIA CITY RESOURCE STUDY



**Research**

"Who is out there?" Matthew Kierstead writes for information about fellow researchers in the field of mining in the East. He is writing his dissertation on Appalachian Pyrites and the American Sulfuric Acid Industry and is seeking correspondence with individuals interested in sharing ideas on the area's history, and thoughts on preservation. He can be reached at 6 Paine St., Wellesley, MA 02181.

Edward S. Slagle is researching William M. Talcott, the discoverer of the Reese River mines in 1862. Much is known about the silver mining boom at Austin, Nevada. But he is looking for leads on this elusive character, as all prospectors are, especially the years before and after discovery of their one big bonanza. Slagle is seeking any tips, references or approaches. He can be reached at P. O. Box 141, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820.

**Ghost Towns**

In the January 1993 Mining History News the editor requested help in locating the first Ghost Town, or at least the first mention of a ghost town as a tourist attraction. Many writers have helped with suggestions, notes, and brochures, while other readers have supplied guidance on where to locate the few remaining pristine ghost towns, such as the one in the Mall of America, outside Minneapolis, with its Mystery Mine ride (I was puzzled until it was explained that the attraction was developed by Knotts Berry farm, home of the first "ghost town").

The hands-down favorite ghost town is Bodie. Its isolation, the number of buildings and artifacts, and the care given by California State Parks has ensured its popularity. The next choice is Bannack, Montana, another state park which has that feel of abandonment sought by ghost town devotees.

**Attractions**

Ralph Shock sent us literature on the "World Famous Gold Prospecting Expeditions" of Jamestown, California. Part educational, part just for fun, the attraction specializes in helping people understand the work of mining for placer gold. Students use long toms and rockers to wash out the gold while a "local character," even Mark Twain, tells tales of the 49ers. For an informational flyer write Ralph at P. O. Box 1040, Jamestown, CA 95327.

A tour of the Georgetown Loop Railroad and Mining Museum will be part of the events offered during the Mining History Association conference in June. Members interested in spending more time visiting the Georgetown-Silver Plume area before or after the conference should contact site manager Lee Behrens at P. O. Box 1035, Georgetown, CO 80444.

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**Second Notice for Dues**

Your 1994 dues are due if your mailing label does not have 1994 printed after your name. Since the Mining History Association has added the expense of publishing a journal this year it is necessary to be less relaxed about collecting dues or deleting names from our mailing list. Please send your check for \$10 to remain on the active membership list of the Mining History Association. This will be your last notification for 1994 dues.

Enclosed is my check for \$10 for 1994 \_\_\_\_\_

My address has changed. Please correct the MHA mailing list to read:

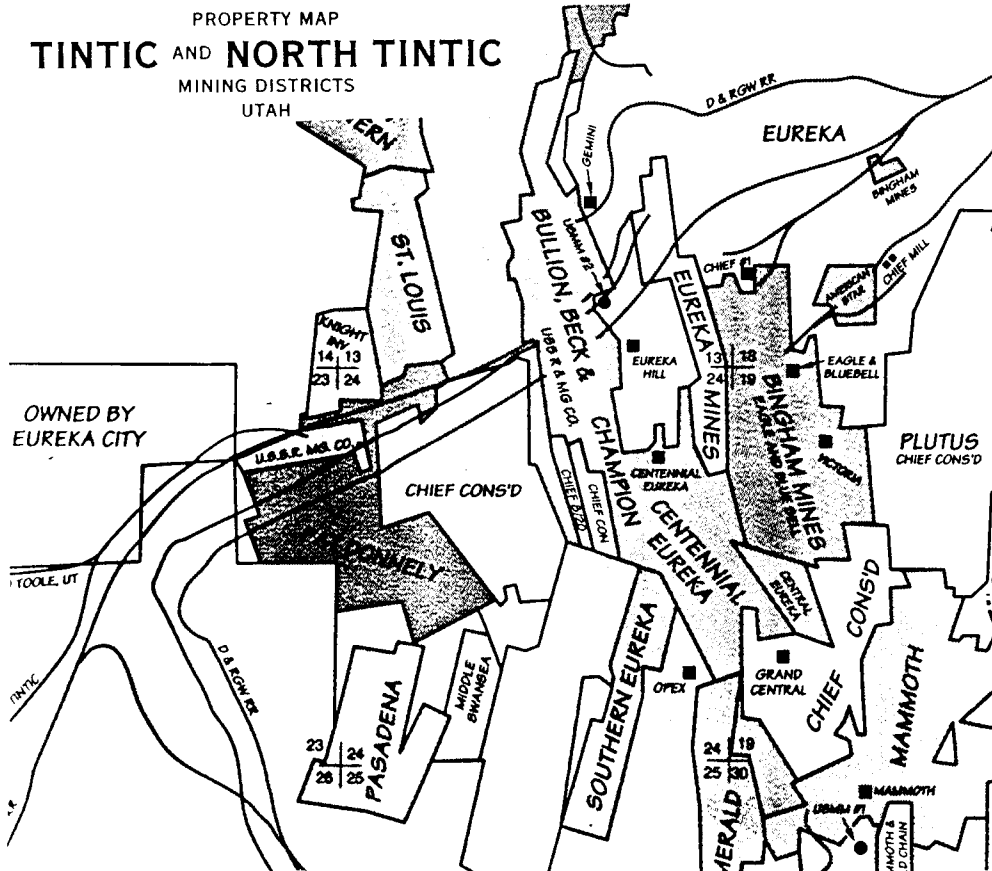
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**Tailings**

U. S. Mining Commissioner Rossiter Raymond in his annual report of 1869, commented on the then proposed mining law. It passed in 1872. He wrote: "Our American system cannot be a delicately balanced and nicely administered one: the hoofs of each new party riding into power would trample such workmanship to pieces. It must be broad, simple, and, as far as possible, automatic. Our institutions are not like philosophical apparatus, closely watched and often adjusted; they are rather like the ocean, lashed by storms and swayed by mighty tides, yet keeping its own level after all, and asking no man to supply its deficiency or drain its surplus."



**Mining History Association**  
 Post Office Box 150300  
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