Volume 7 • February 1996 • Number 1

Travelling to Rossland?

In hopes of encouraging you all to make plans to attend the annual Mining History Conference June 6-9 in Rossland, I wanted to pass on some travel information. Rossland lies in the south eastern corner of British Columbia, quite close to the border. It's a beautiful part of the province and anyone intending to come to the conference should think about taking a few extra days to do some touring.

The area has a very rich mining past, quite apart from Rossland itself and nearby Trail. To the west, there are the Boundary copper mines and smelters which boomed in the first decade of this century. (You can still visit Greenwood's huge smelter stack and slag heaps.) To the north is the "Silvery Slocan," with ghost towns, plenty of derelict buildings, mine workings, and the like. To the east, there's the Crow's Nest Pass coal region, as well as an old gold rush site turned national park (Fort Steele, near Cranbrook), and the remarkable Frank Slide right in the Pass itself.

The Rossland conference will follow the general format of earlier MHA conferences. Several tours will be arranged for those people that might be interested in seeing a bit more of the area. Rossland itself has a very good mining museum, including an underground tour (down an old level that led into the Le Roi mine). Cominco will also arrange a tour for us of the huge Trail smelter. In addition, I hope that

we will be able to offer an extended bus tour into the Slocan on Sunday 9 June. Details will be included on the conference program. In any event, I trust you'll keep 6 - 9 June open!

There's a number of different ways to get to Rossland. Castlegar is the closest airport to Rossland. It's about 25 miles away. There is a shuttle bus, run by Dewdney Tours, which meets flights into Castlegar. The company is offering a special rate for travel from airport to the conference hotel in Rossland, \$10 CAN (about \$7.50 US) one way. They do ask that you let them know when you're coming, by giving them a call a few days in advance. They have two tollfree numbers: in Canada, call 1 800 332-0282; from the US, call 1 800 332-0283. Bear in mind that only Canadian flights come into Castlegar, from either Vancouver or Calgary. If you're flying from the US, you'll have to fly into one of those cities first, and then take a commuter flight to Castlegar. (In fact, you have to do that from within Canada too.)

Two airlines fly into Castlegar. Air BC (an Air Canada regional carrier) has a daily flight from Calgary, at 11:15 am (non-stop); from Vancouver there are three flights into Castlegar, 7:05 am, 11:00am, and 2:02 pm. The 11:00 am has a stop along the way; the other two are non-stop. Canadian Airlines International services Castlegar through Canadian Regional. Canadian has two flights into Castlegar from Vancouver, at 7:00 am and 11:15 am, and one flight from Calgary, at 11:45 am.

For American travellers, it may be more convenient and/or economical to fly into Spokane, Washington and then pick up a rental car at the Spokane airport. Rossland is one hundred and forty miles north of Spokane, and the drive up takes about three hours.

The conference hotel is the Uplander in Rossland, and it has a conference rate available (approximately \$60 CAN or \$45 US a night). You can make reservations at the Uplander through the Kootenay South Events & Convention Bureau, reached at 1 800 563-8368. There's also a slightly cheaper hotel, a five to ten minute walk from town: the Scotsman Hotel, and you can book rooms there at 1 800 663-0203. (Its rates are \$43 CAN (\$32 US) for a double, and slightly cheaper for a single.) The Scotsman is right across the road from the mining museum.

Jeremy Mouat Athabasca, Alberta



President's Page

While waiting to assume the onerous burdens of office, your new president spent a week in January on an intensive tour of the Panama Canal. This included a transit of its fifty-mile length aboard a launch, tagging alongside behemoth ships as they went into and out of the locks. Although few would immediately associate one of the world's most important waterways with mining, this visit revealed a number of parallels between the construction of this canal, now over eighty years old, and aspects of mining history to Mining History Association members.

Without the benefit of mining technology, it would have been impossible to remove the immense amounts of rock and soil from the continental divide of the isthmus of Panama. "Steam shovel mining" had been inaugurated in the 1890s in Minnesota and Michigan for iron ore and, in the early 1900s, use of such shovels was extended to copper mining in Spain and the western U.S. This type of machinery was used on a massive scale in Panama; one of some 101 shovels employed in canal construction was still being used a few years ago by Kennecott at its former Chino operation in New mexico. Also from an historical preservation perspective, it is interesting to note that a rock crusher used in construction of the Canal is still in use today at a limestone quarry in California. Mining -- and canal -- history aficionados should like to know about the survival of such equipment.

A number of relics still remain from the era of the de Lesseps construction; this unsuccessful French effort to build a sea level canal occupied most of the 1880s and 1890s. In several places, one can compare the type (and sizes) of the French equipment with that of the U. S. project which followed.

Besides steam shovels and hydraulic mining techniques, canal construction brought innovations in materials handling to dispose of the enormous tonnages of excavated material. Twenty dredges were used in Canal construction, and this type of mining equipment is still very much in use today to keep channels clear of any obstruction that might impede the consistent stream of vessels that transit the Canal twenty-four hours a day.

Because so much at the Canal remains unchanged since its completion in 1914, the staff constantly refers to original, historic information when maintenance and modifications are performed. Moreover, in the literature, in the large murals that decorate the Canal Commission headquarters at Balboa, and in the National Archives in Washington, D. C., there is much documentation of the industrial technology used. It was arresting to hear the chief engineer state that the original General Electric control system for operating the lock gates is so robust that a recent study of possible conversion to an electric, computer-controlled system revealed that less reliability would be provided than currently exists.

It is significant that the entire Canal, with the former Canal Zone surrounding it, will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Panamanian government at the end of 1999. Already, under the Carter-Torrijos Treaty of 1977, much of the area has been transferred from the U. S. to Panama, including many of the military bases and installations. Staffing today reflects the forthcoming Panamanian management, with U. S. personnel rapidly being phased out.

A serious concern may be the preservation, under the new Panamanian organization, of the history pertaining to the construction and operation of the Canal. While it may be expected that the technical data will be carefully preserved, one wonders whether the new regime will maintain the items of purely historical interest to the same extent as did the U. S., which has been so proud of its accomplishment. There are similar concerns in mining history, as valuable data, information, and artifacts, may cumbersome, sometimes jettisoned by a new management unsympathetic to their historic importance.

We stand in awe before the accomplishments of those great engineers who built the canal and their compatriots in the mining industry. If success is achieved in the engineering and technological challenge of the twenty-first century, it will only be because we have stood on the shoulders of giants.

Noel W. Kirshenbaum San Francisco

Election Returns

The results of the Mining History Association's annual election are in. The Nominating Committee for 1996: Eric Clements, Western Museum of Mining and Industry of Colorado Springs, Ron James, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, Carson City and Stanley Paher, Nevada Publications, Reno. The newly elected board members, who serve terms 1996-1998, are: James Edgerly, M. E., of Fort Collins, Colorado, Richard Francaviglia of the University of Texas, Arlington, and Lynn Langenfeld of Madison, Wisconsin.

Robert Trennert, Arizona State University, is the new vice-president (president elect). Noel Kirshenbaum assumes the presidency, while Ron Brown continues as treasurer and Bob Spude, secretary.

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.

Off to Cornwall

The Mining History Association tour #1 in Cornwall in 1997? Interest is mounting for this exciting trip to visit this fascinating land and its mining heritage. Plans are already being discussed and formalized. If you would like to have your name put on the list for further information please write Duane A. Smith, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO 81301.

If there is enough interest we might even plan a one day conference at the Cornish School of Mines in Camborne-Redruth amidst our traveling about the West Country. When writing, let me know of your interest in participating in a conference or exchange with our colleagues in England. For spouses or friends lacking the enthusiasm for ancient mining lands we are planning special things to do and see as well.

Mining Poster

The Mining History Association is a cosponsor this year of the Colorado Archeology and Historic Preservation Week, May 12-18, 1996. This year's poster will feature the Historic American Engineering Record drawings and photographs of the Sound Democrat Mill (1906), which stands on Bureau of Land Management Lands in the San Juan Mountains above Silverton. We will mail you a poster free upon request, or contact the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203-2137.

Off the Internet

The Mining History home page is ready for your visit. Bradford Burton at the University of Wyoming volunteered last year to set up a World Wide Web homepage and has it up and running. Give it a try and let us know what you think.

http://www.uwyo.edu/legal/ahc/mha/mha.htm

Conferences:

The History of Geology Division of GSA is cosponsoring a conference on the "History of Oil and Gas Exploration in North America." The conference will be held at the Drake Well Museum, Titusville, Pennsylvania July 18-21, 1996. If you wish to give a paper or receive additional information write William R. Brice, Geology Department, University of Pittsburg at Johnstown, Johnstown, PA 15904 or call 814-269-2901.

The American Heritage Center of the University is hosting its fifth annual symposium September 26-28, 1996. The theme this year is "Western Lands: Rocks, Rails, and Ranching," which includes early mining history and petroleum exploration. Program proposal forms are available from Tom Wilsted, Acting Director, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY or call 307-766-6811 or e:mail TomW@Uwyo.Edu

In connection with the Centennial Celebration of the Alaska/Yukon Gold Rush an International Symposium on the History of Mining is planned for September 9-14, 1997 in Fairbanks, Alaska. The organizing committee is collecting names of interested parties and will forward information as the event nears. If interested in participating write: Dr. William R. Wood, Office of Festival Fairbanks, 514 Second Ave., Suite 102, Fairbanks, AK 99701 or call 907 456 1984.

Bill Greever sends news of an innovative conference at the University of Idaho, where the internet will be used to maintain a WEB side for posting papers, both in Moscow, ID and Athens, Greece. The papers, technical in nature, will include information about historical development of mining regions. For info: John R. Sturgul, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID or e:mail sturgul@uidaho.edu

Museum Notes

The Nevada Historical Society opened its traveling exhibit, "Asian Nevadans: The Asian-American Experience in the Silver State," in January. The exhibit documents the presence of Asians from the first Chinese sojourners in the Carson Valley in 1855 to today's ethnic communities. The displays focus on the late nineteenth century shows much about the large Chinese communities in the state's mining camps.

The Sterling Hill Mining Museum sent its latest newsletter, which tells of its GEMS education program, improvements on the zinc mine grounds, and efforts to save a 1911 Fraser & Chalmers ten stamp mill located in Ontario, Canada. Membership is \$15 for individuals; write Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, N. J. 07439.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum is requesting application for inductees to the Hall of Fame, which is a memorial for men and women who achieved lasting greatness in mining. If you have a recommendation, send a brief biography (200 words), a photograph, and supporting documentation to Charles S. Morris, Nominations Chair, National Mining Hall of Fame, 251 Woodland Lane, Golden, CO 80401-9539. Nominations due April 1.

Help Needed

Melvin Schmidt, Associate Professor at McNeese State University, is in the final stages of his research for an upcoming book on the mines, minerals and townsites of Colorado. Melvin needs your help in locating documents, past copies of the Colorado Scientific Society Proceedings, early United States Geological Survey Professional Papers and Bulletins. If anyone knows where copies of these items can be purchased, write Schmidt at 245 Vanessa, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70605.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

This bibliography contains articles and dissertations published recently in the field of mining history in North America. Any additions or comments are welcome.

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Historic Preservation

Real de Los Cerrilos Tricentennial. A solemn group dedicated recognition of Spanish mining history and its import in the history of the United States, especially those regions formerly under the Spanish crown, met in the desert of New Mexico. On September 30, 1995, the three-hundredth anniversary of the oldest known official mining camp in the present United States was commemorated 15 miles south of Santa Fe, New Mexico at the 'Tiffany Mine,' Member Homer Milford of Albuquerque sends word of the solemn occasion, along with some background information.

The mining camp was officially founded by Governor Don Diego de Vargas of New Mexico in 1695 and named "Real de Los Cerrillos." The commemoration was held in conjunction with the New Mexico Geological Society's 46th Annual Field Conference.

Though Real de Los Cerrillos has been mined for centuries, little is known about the district. Records document its existence and archeological evidence hint at mining and milling operations at the silver-lead mines, which were "reopened" in 1694 and led to the camp's founding. The mines are in the Sierra de San Marcos. Cerrilos became one of the first European communities in the West, only Santa Fe and San Gabriel are older in New Mexico.

But the Spanish were not the first miners. Pueblo Indians had mined turquoise as early as 1050 and galena around 1300. Philipe Escalante first prospected the area in 1581 and sporadic mining occurred through the early 1600s. After the reconquest of New Mexico following the Pueblo revolt of 1680, permanent settlement began at Real de Los Cerrilos.

Homer Milford, one of the celebrants of the Tricentennial, has donated to the Mining History Association a few attractive certificates of membership in the "Sociedad de Mineros de Real de Los Cerrillos," which we will mail to

members that vow to never again say California had the first precious metal strike and who will donate \$25 to the MHA for a suitable commemorative effort at Real de Los Cerrillos.

Pahaquarry Copper Mine report done.

The two volume study of the history and remaining evidence of the mid-eighteenth century to early twentieth century copper mining and smelting activity at Pahaquarry, New Jersey is available. The report details the cultural landscape of the site in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, its changes over time, the evidence of mining, milling and smelting as well as provides a history of the various operations, including an expose on the myth of seventeenth century Dutch mining. The operation began ca. 1750, revived in the nineteenth century, especially in the 1840-1860s period, then was once again reopened after the turn of the twentieth Copies are available from century. Steve Burns Chavez, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225.

Calendar

If you have not bought your 1996 calendar yet, Ross Mainwaring of St. Ives, Australia suggests the Richard Daintree mine photographs calendar. The nineteenth century scenes are from glass plate negatives, so the clarity is exquisite. The scenes are of placer gulches and horse whims, miners at work in the diggings, and a portrait of the Queensland geologist. The Calendar is available for \$20 Australian from Ross Thomas, Department of Minerals and Energy, P. O. Box 704, Charter Towers, Queensland, Australia 4820.

Stock Certificates

American Vignettes sent their recent catalogue, which lists hundreds of stock certificates and paper ephemera from mining companies. Representative gilt edged certificates are reproduced besides the listings. My favorite: United Smelters, Railway and Copper Company, Wyoming. For a copy of the most recent catalog write them at P. O. Box 155, Roselle Park, N. J. 07204 or call 908 241 4209.

Book Notes

The Ohio University Press has reprinted Robert Silverberg's Ghost Towns of the American West. Originally published in 1968, the 309 page book provides a quick overview history of the mining frontier from the California gold camps of '49, through Colorado's Pikes Peak Rush and Nevada's booms, to endings in the northern Rockies of Idaho and Montana, and the Southwest, with a last gasp at Tombstone. Though not a guide book to ghost towns, Silverberg, popular author of frontier histories, gives character to the old camps by quoting period visitors and contemporary newspapers. Available in paperback for \$12.95 from Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio.

Robert D. Turner and David S. Wilkie have combined there talents to provide a beautifully illustrated book on the Kaslo and Slocan Railway and the mining towns it served in The Skyline Limited (Victoria, B. C.: Sino Nis Press, 1994). The silver boom in southern British Columbia caused a rush of railroad building and steam boat construction during the 1890s and early 1900s. The short lines built to serve the silver boom towns were extensions of the expansion tendencies of the competing Great Northern and Canadian Pacific, final victor. The empire builders tapped the districts by intricate systems of steamboat and railway lines, which were dramatically built over the Canadian Rockies. Much of the story is that of havoc caused by nature, though mining and limited rail operation continued to the 1950s. The best parts of the book are the historic photographs and the exquisite line drawings of steamboats and rail lines by Turner.

Book Reviews

Lee Scamehorn, Albert Eugene Reynolds, Colorado's Mining King. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. 308 pp., notes, photographs, maps.

Lee Scamehorn, emeritus professor of history at the University of Colorado, has produced the definitive history of one of Colorado's most important, yet least known mining entrepreneurs, Albert Eugene Reynolds. Well-written and impeccably researched, Scamehorn's book examines the business dealings of Reynolds from his days as a licensed trader in Indian Territory in the 1870s through his years as a major mine investor in Colorado.

Since his death in 1921, Reynolds has remained an obscure mining figure. Scamehorn attributes this anonymity to the businessman's "habit of keeping information from the public" (xiii) and because his papers stayed in the private collections of his heirs and close family friends until 1982. Reynolds's daughter, Anna Reynolds Morse Garrey, held the bulk of the papers until her ninety-eighth year when her children decided to donate the documents to the Colorado Historical Society.

With these long-sequestered records the author tells the story of Reynolds's life and business ventures. The result is a detailed account of the mining mogul's business affairs, especially the management of 600 claims and 6,000 acres of mineral lands that during his lifetime produced \$60 million worth of silver, gold, and other metals.

With financial supporters from San Francisco to New York, Reynolds's became "Colorado's greatest mine operator" (p. 19). He first began to search for gold and silver near Lake City. He developed the Palmetto Mine and other lesser mines in the area. Mining fever led him to claims in Ouray as well, then on to the "Aspen Pool" of silver mines. During the 1880s, he was deeply involved in the famous Durant apex case which provided legal fodder

for the mining world for many years to come. His ventures finally landed him a "big moneymaker," the Virginius Mine of Ouray County, which earned more than \$1,500,000 during the late 1880s and early 1890s. After 1900, Reynolds continued to develop promising claims at Tin Cup, Summitville, Pitkin, Platoro, Rico, Hesperus, and elsewhere.

The mining king had no interest in negotiating with labor, and was equally opposed to owners' organizations. Similarly, he strongly believed that mining should be carried on despite the potential for environmental disasters. When the Colorado Fish and Game Commission ordered the owners of the Raymond Mill to build a dam and settling ponds to prevent the tailings from entering Ohio Creek, Reynolds refused to make the same modifications at his Gold Links Mill. "He argued rather belligerently that if the people of Gunnison County thought that catching fish was more important than developing mines and mills, he would halt construction" (p. 154).

Scamehorn reveals Reynolds's financial difficulties which coincided with Colorado's decline in mining, especially after the Panic of 1907.

Mining historians and buffs will find Scamehorn's book well worth reading. He provides an insightful examination of Reynolds's mining ventures and the obstacles that men of his stature faced during the heyday of the Colorado mining industry. Because of the author's efforts Albert Eugene Reynolds now has a place in the regional history along with men such as Horace Tabor and George B. Robinson.

Chris Huggard Fayetteville, Arkansas

Peggy Champlin, Raphael Pumpelly, Gentleman Geologist of the Gild Age Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1994. 288pp, notes, bib. \$49.95.

In the Southwest, Raphael Pumpelly is known as a chronicler, years after the

events, of the 1850s and 1860s silver mining era of the newly acquired Gadsden Purchase. Pumpelly, a recent graduate of the Royal Saxon School of Mines at Frieburg, came as a young man to open mines that were isolated and thus more difficult to work than in the time of the ancients. Now, thanks to Dr. Peggy Champlin, an independent scholar in California, we have this splendid biography of this world travelling, influential mining man.

Pumpelly, a native New Yorker educated in Germany, represents the transition in American professionals, where prior to his time talent came from abroad and afterward professionals were educated at home. He, like many of his peers, was educated in European schools that taught the best practices of the day -- some of them in error, especially in geologic theory. With this educational advantage he was in demand in the new mining areas of the West and later throughout the world. In the field of economic geology he was prominent, but Pumpelly is best remembered for his geologic studies, in Asia, in the Green Mountains of the U.S. and among the glaciers of the northern Rocky Mountains.

Late in life he became fascinated by the evolving field of archeology and led some pioneering studies in Russian Turkestan and central Asia. Pumpelly's life in many ways exemplifies the many interests of the pragmatic scientists of the late nineteenth century.

relates The author not only Pumpelly's accomplishments, but puts them in the context of the late nineteenth She also century geologic theories. provides information about his many interest, including the literary society of New York, the political and diverse scholarly friendships, and his somewhat private life. Pumpelly was a major participant in a Heroic Age, and Dr. Champlin provides mining historians with the definitive study of his career.

William Turpin Prescott, Arizona Don Chaput. Nellie Cashman. Westernlore Press, 1995. 181 pp., bibliography, notes, map, illustrations. \$26.95.

What a difference professionalism makes. Nellie Cashman's previous biographer and most authors who wrote about her have been content to recycle the same tired old tales ad infinitum. Don Chaput undertakes the in depth research that a real historian can bring to the story of the "Miner's Angel," perhaps the best known and most admired woman on the mining frontier.

Chaput depicts Cashman as "one of the ultimate stampeders," racing to new mining excitements from the Arctic to Baja California during a career as prospector, businesswoman, and one woman charitable institution that lasted from 1872 until her death in 1925. Scrutiny of Irish baptismal records enabled the author to resolve a long-standing mystery on Cashman's birthdate (1845), a mystery fostered by Cashman's covness about her age. In one of several insightful reexaminations of the Cashman legend, he brings a bracing skepticism to bear upon the endlessly retold episode in which Cashman, offended by plans to turn the execution five convicted murderers in Tombstone into a spectacle, led a group of miners by night to demolish the extra grandstand constructed by entrepreneur. Chaput finds corroboration in the detailed newspaper accounts of the time for Cashman's involvement nor in the many interviews Cashman gave to the press over the years. Instead he uncovers evidence suggesting that those who tore down the structure resented the stiff admission prices.

His previous work on Tombstone and Baja gives added resonance to these phases of his subject's life. Numerous well chosen illustrations provide a sense of the varied mining camps where Cashman lived and some of the people she knew. For anyone interested in a biography of Cashman, this book is the one to read.

Sally Zanjani Reno, Nevada

Kent C. Ryden in Mapping the Invisible Landscape, Folklore, Writing and Sense of Place provides an engaging chapter on the cultural landscape of the Coeur d' Alene Mining District, Idaho. Ryden talks with residents and studies the region's history in order to understand how people value or interpret the place they call home — what he calls the "folklore of place." The lengthy chapter looks at the remaining landscape and reevaluates how we should look at mining regions. Available from the University of Iowa Press, Iowa City

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