

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 7 · December 1996 · Number 4

Michigan Copper Country

Mark your calendar: Mining History Association Eighth Annual conference in Houghton, June 5-8, 1997.

Although copper was known to exist on the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan for centuries, the mineral rush did not begin until 1844, when word of giant copper nuggets and wide mineral veins attracted investors. By mid-century, Michigan's copper country was leading the nation in red metal production and had caused the growth of a series of mining, milling and transport communities along the peninsula.

Calumet & Hecla and Quincy mining companies became among the most profitable to ever operate in the U.S. Around their works were company towns, which today are being transformed into tourist destinations. While the organizers of the conference will provide opportunities to enjoy the major sites, there is a host of museums and historic sites within the area of Houghton-Hancock-Calumet-Laurium. Calumet is home to the Keweenaw National Historical Park, one of the sponsors of the MHA conference.

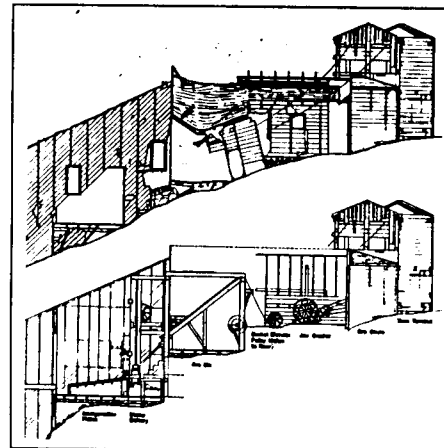
The conference center will be at the Franklin Square Inn, a Best Western hotel in downtown Houghton, Michigan. For early reservations call 906-487-1700. The Inn is near Michigan Tech, which will also host some of our events, including a tour of the extensive archives of the copper country. So, mark your calendars and join us in Michigan's copper country.

Our colleagues at the **Society for Industrial Archaeology** will also convene their annual conference at Houghton, Michigan. They will meet May 29-June 1, 1997 at Michigan Tech University. The university is well known for its industrial archeology program, one of the best in the nation; the SIA headquarters are based on the campus. The conference will include the usual excellent tours of bridges, dams, and other industrial sites, in this case, the mines of Michigan, besides formal presentations and social events. This is a fortunate opportunity for Mining History Association members who may have wished to attend SIA meetings but find them too often scheduled at the same time as the Mining History conference. Why not plan a week and a half in the Keweenaw and attend both? In between the two events venture out to Isle Royale National Park or head over to the iron country. For more information on the SIA event write Pat Martin, Social Sciences Dept., Michigan Tech, Houghton, MI 49931-1295.

Robert Fox, MHA member and book dealer, sent his latest sales list of books and memorabilia. He also sent a copy of his reprinting of C. T. Jackson's 1849 essay "Remarks on the Geology, Mineralogy and Mines of Lake Superior," and James S. Hodge's "On the Mineral Region of Lake Superior." For copies of the pamphlet or any of your copper country reading needs write Bob at 1235 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Keweenaw News

The newsletter "Update" distributed by the Keweenaw National Historical Park is filled with bits of information about activities in the Michigan copper country, site of the 1997 conference. (Copies available by writing the Superintendent, P. O. Box 471, Calumet, Michigan 49913). Michigan Tech's Industrial Archeology program issued a new guide booklet giving an excellent overview of the Quincy Mining story. A walking tour with new interpretive signs is under development. New exhibits are being placed in The Quincy Mine Hoist Association's 1894 No. 2 hoist house. Calumet Township received a grant, which has helped in the window replacement of one of the former Mine Captain's houses in Calumet. Historic district ordinances are being discussed for Hancock and Calumet. And the work goes on.



President's Page

No one in or associated with mining can be unaware of the impact environmental concerns have had on the industry. It occurs to your president that mining historians should have some concerns of their own in terms of sites, structures, and artifacts which may be lost to posterity in the name of environmental "purity" and remediation. While we are all aware that the industry today operates in a far more ecologically responsible manner than in decades past -- and indeed is required to so operate -- many historic sites remain which are threatened by reclamation initiatives. Obviously, old mine shafts or adits should not be left uncovered or open, but environmental zealotry can be detrimental or even fatal to many relics of early days of the industry's history.

Many examples come to mind: smelter complexes and their stacks that were notable landmarks, picturesque headframes, and heavy timber and stone foundations of long-ago salvaged quartz mills. Presumably the reason for "reclamation" of these sites is because of heavy metals content rather than physical hazard. As we know, many structures of historic value have already been lost and others are no doubt in jeopardy. With the present extremely low threshold for many elements/metals on the regulators' list expect the continued loss of the landmarks of mining history.

It is ironic that so many sites of old mining and metallurgical production have attracted fancy recreational and residential development; the list is long: Park City, Telluride, Aspen, to name a few. There are certainly tailings or other mining relics now deemed hazards, but still residents are proud to be able to point to historic structures, not bulldozed sites with a brass marker.

Perhaps this matter will be the subject of discussion both in *Mining History News* as well as at our annual meeting.

Noel W. Kirshenbaum
San Francisco

Organization Notes

The next issue of the Mining History News will come from Santa Fe, New Mexico. The editor is moving to the City Different with the boxes, computer files, and official papers of the organization. Letters, dues, etc. should still be sent to the Denver address as Treasurer Jay Fell and Membership Chair Glenn Cook will continue to manage the operational details from there.

Welcome to the new Mining History Association officers: Sally Zanjani, Ed Hunter, and Lysa Wegman-French. The officers and board for 1997 are:

President, Robert Trennert
Vice-president (President elect),
Sally Zanjani
Secretary, Robert Spude
Treasurer, James E. Fell, Jr.
Council members:
Ron Limbaugh, 1995-7
Gene Gressley, 1995-7
Karen Vendl, 1995-7
James Edgerly, 1996-8
Richard Francaviglia, 1996-8
Lynn Langenfeld, 1996-8
Ed Hunter, 1997-9
Lysa Wegman-French, 1997-9

The nominating committee for 1997 includes Erik Nordberg of Michigan, David Wolff of Wyoming, and Homer Milford of New Mexico.

Thanks to retiring president Noel Kirshenbaum and council members Jeremy Mouat and Sally Zanjani for their hard work and friendship. Tap 'er light.

Rodman Paul Award. During the annual mining history breakfast at the Western History conference in Lincoln, president-elect Bob Trennert gave the MHA's Rodman Paul award to Michael P. Malone. Malone, president of Montana State University and a western historian, is best known for his *The Battle for Butte, Mining and Politics on the Northern Frontier, 1864-1906* (1981).

Conferences

The organizers of the **Festival Fairbanks** sent a note of clarification about the International Symposium on Mining History. All correspondence about the symposium, an event of Festival Fairbanks, should be sent to them at P. O. Box 74086, Fairbanks, AK 99707. Or call (907) 456-1984. The Festival Fairbanks has issued a call for papers for the September 9-14, 1997 conference in Fairbanks, Alaska. Please direct any questions to them.

The **Latin American Mining History Conference** will be held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico on July 14-18, 1997. A call for papers has been received. Suggested topics are broad, from the Spanish era of exploration and settlement to the Great Depression era. Please send your proposals to Ines Herrera, Rina Ortiz or Alma Parra at National Institute of Anthropology and History, History Studies, Anexo al Castillo de Chapultepec, Apartado Postal 5-119, Mexico D. F. C. P. 06500. Fax preferred to 553-63-47 (or e:mail to Smithers@servidor.unam.mx)

The **Fourth International Mining History Conference** scheduled for Chile in October 1998 has been postponed by the conference organizers. We will keep Mining History Association members informed of new dates and location.

**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

**EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE
MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

at
Houghton, Michigan
June 5-8, 1997

The Program Committee for the Michigan 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 in history. Sessions normally include two or three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no geographical or temporal limitations.

Proposals should include an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each paper, plus biographical information about each presenter and session participant. Please send proposals to the Program Committee chair before February 15, 1997.

1997 Program Committee:

Duane Smith
1997 Program Committee Chair
Department of History
Fort Lewis College
Durango, Colorado 81301

Lynn Langenfeld
Madison, Wisconsin

Clark Spence
Champaign, Illinois

Preservation News

Virginia City, Montana, one of the best preserved 1860s gold camps, is under an option to buy by the Montana Historical Society Foundation and may be acquired by the state, per the recommendations of a 12 member task force. If the state legislature acts, the Bovey family holdings (the most historic properties) would be acquired in this former territorial capital. The legislature will deliberate this winter.

Our Australian correspondent Ross Mainwaring sent slides and descriptions of the Cadia Copper Mine enginehouse ruin in New South Wales. It would look more at home near Lands End, Cornwall, England, than west of Sydney. The engine house will be restored by Newcrest Mining, Ltd., which is opening a new/old gold mine near Cadia, site of an 1850s gold rush.

The Bureau of Land Management is organizing its fifth season of survey, inventory and preservation work at three mining sites in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico. The Philmont Scout Ranch will serve as base of operations for volunteers willing to work in the outdoors this summer. The ranch has room for spouses and offspring less interested in historic preservation, but who still enjoy outings. For more information write the BLM, 324 South State Street, P. O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155.

Garnet, Montana, gold camp jointly managed by the Friends of Garnet and the Bureau of Land Management, is quiet under winter wraps at this season. But the BLM staff in Missoula is working on a new management plan for the long-term preservation of the near-ghost town. They are looking for innovative ideas and examples from elsewhere. If you wish to share experiences or just learn what's up call Dick Fickler of the BLM at 406-329-3884.

Museum News

The Learning Mine, Inc. has initiated an effort to convert one of the historic coal mines of Colorado's Northern Coal Field into an educational center. The complex will include hands-on outdoor classes as well as a resource center for information, maps, photographs, equipment, and tools used during the century of mining north of Denver. For more information contact The Learning Mine, Inc., 565 South Boulder Road, Suite 300, Louisville, CO 80027 or call 303-665-3256.

The Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum in Phoenix will open their building to a gathering of mining history enthusiasts, collectors, and dealers on April 11 and 12, 1997. The museum has a wide array of items on display, from the Spanish period to the twentieth century, as well as a research library and artifact and mineral specimens collection. Anyone interested in the event should contact Paul Kuts, 17222 N. Central Ave., Apt 377, Phoenix, AZ 85022-2345 or call 602-789-8215. (e:mail to plkouts@primenet.com)

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Leadville, has received the Anaconda mineral collection for permanent display. The museum continues to grow and improve.

New Journal

Lane Griffin sent copies of issue No. 1 of the new *Collector's Mining Review*, a forty page journal dedicated to "mining history and its lasting vestiges." Included in the Fall 1996 edition are essays on Monite Explosives and Mining Stock certificates, the Mt. Baker Mining District, Washington and Jack Greenway's Ajo experience (part 1), and the reproduction of a letter from Hanna Coal Mine No. 1, Wyoming about the disaster of June 30, 1903. Send subscriptions (\$30) to Lane Griffin, 1633 Shadow Wood Rd., Reno, NV 89523.

Book Notes

Some of the largest deposits of uranium lie outside of Grants, New Mexico. George Dannenbaum gives his recollection of the U-boom that hit the town during the 1950s in *Boom to Bust, Remembrances of the Grants, New Mexico Uranium Boom* (Creative Designs, 11024 Montgomery NE, Suite 311, Albuquerque, NM 8711, \$19.95 paper). A politico and one-time mayor, Dannenbaum gives the story of the discovery, rush, and developments as well as the impacts on the community. In contrast to this boomer's view of uranium mining is journalist Peter Eichstaedt's *If You Poison Us, Uranium and Native Americans* (Red Crane Books, 2008 Rosina Street, Suite B, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, \$19.95 hardback). A quarter of the one-time 15,000 uranium mine workers in the four corners area of the Southwest were Native Americans, many from the Navajo Reservation. Eichstaedt reviews the physical, cultural and psychological impact of the U-boom on the Navajo people. He interviews some of the former miners, who discuss ailments and reparations. A detailed, serious look.

The planned mining communities of the Southwest have received much attention recently. Margaret Crawford, professor at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, looks at the career of architect Bertram Goodhue and his work in designing Tyrone, New Mexico, Phelps Dodge's model town built in the 1910s. In *Building the Workingman's Paradise, the Design of American Company Towns* (Verso Books, 180 Varick Street, NY, NY 10014-4606, \$18.95 paper) she discusses in a chapter on "redesigning the mining town" the ideals of garden city movement architects and the failed realities of mining camp socio-economic conditions and corporate controls -- at Tyrone, Ajo, and Clarkdale -- that hampered the success of these company towns.

Book Reviews

Clark C. Spence, *The Northern Gold Fleet: Twentieth-Century Gold Dredging in Alaska*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1996. xii, 302 pp., notes, illustrations, index. \$44.95.

Reading Clark Spence's latest book, *The Northern Gold Fleet*, is like participating in the clean-up of the sluices onboard one of the dredges he describes so well. Spence has processed a huge volume of archival material and captured some valuable and interesting nuggets describing the operations, history and fate of an important facet of northern economic and technological history. The book is a well-organized and comprehensive encyclopedia of the Alaskan gold dredging industry.

The book provides an incredible breadth on its topic in several senses. There is probably not a single Alaskan dredge operation that doesn't rate at least one mention, and many have details ranging from colorful vignettes to whole chapters of the book. The whole period of Alaskan dredging operations is also addressed, from the "Jackass Machinery" dumped into Nome at the turn of the century to the constraints of environmental legislation introduced during the 1980s. Finally, Spence has also addressed the full array of details making up dredging operations. He includes discussion of Boardroom manoeuvring, on-site management practices, detailed information on field operations, the evolution of dredge and especially ground thawing technology - a distinctly northern specialty, right down to the calorie content of the "three squares" offered at different dredge camps. The best place to get fat was at the Chatanika mess where a baker, a cook, a flunky and a bull cook, offered some 3900 calories per day.

Spence opens his account by recounting stories of the early days of the dredging industry, describing ambitious operators as they struggled to adapt a new technology to the

challenging field of Alaska. Once the technical problems were mastered his focus changes to the organization and development of the large corporate operations that produced the bulk of the gold in the territory. With chapters on the Hammon Consolidated Gold Fields at Nome and the start up of Fairbanks Exploration activities around Fairbanks, Spence then traces their fortunes through the rosy days of the Great Depression, a time of low costs and a doubling of the price of gold.

The second half of the book describes the catastrophic effects of the government shutdown of gold mining in the United States during World War II. Spence provides some fascinating material on the corporate "class action" suit brought against the United States Government after the war by several gold mining companies. In the postwar period, inflation once again eroded the profitability of gold dredging. These difficulties were compounded by competition for labor. Cold War defence spending in Alaska introduced higher wages and reduced dredge companies to a dependence upon a labor force of unproven Native Americans and happy go lucky college students who quit well before the end of the dredging season. Aspects of the development of dredge power supply, the evolution of field operations and the dredge workforce are described in following chapters. The book concludes with a summary of those economic, legal and political factors that eventually led to the shutdown of the Alaskan gold fleet.

It is in this description of the industry's difficulties that the strictly business perspective of the volume begins to show some limitations. During a recent lecture I noted the different experiences of the gold mining industry in the Yukon, where gold dredging continued through the war, and Alaska, where War Production Board Order L-208 effectively closed down gold mining. At the end of the talk an elderly woman in the front row raised herself up and, with great courtesy, announced that I

was in error -- not all dredging operations in Alaska shut down. She then described the gold dredge at Jack Wade Creek, the red curtains she had made for the windows of the dredge and reminisced about the warm days of her youth. Her husband had been the master of the dredge and they had been allowed to continue operating through the war, "because we owed everyone so much money."

Spence's text provides a generally balanced view of dredging operations. However, the heavy reliance upon corporate records and industry literature occasions a few errors and oversights. Worker attitudes are inferred only from rates of staff turnover and company minutes of grievance committee meetings. Even more dangerous is the attribution of social attitudes to Native Americans based solely upon their willingness, or reluctance, to accept employment on dredges. The text on Jack Wade Creek is careful but does imply that the dredge there was shutdown during the war. This internal viewpoint offers valuable insider knowledge and perspective, but occasionally misses the personal element of dredge and mining operations and skews aspects of the social and economic context in which dredge companies operated.

While these limitations should be noted, they do not detract from the encyclopedic character and the high quality of Spence's contribution to the story of northern mining. Historians of mining technology and operations and readers in Alaskan history can only profit by having this worthy and attractive volume in their libraries.

David Neufeld,
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

Edwin Ruthven Purple, *Perilous Passage: A Narrative of the Montana Gold Rush, 1862-1863*. Kenneth N. Owens, ed. Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 1995. 200 pp., notes, illustrations, map, index. \$15.95.

Historians have a habit of not letting holidays and other commitments get in the way of research. When far away from their usual haunts, the results are often serendipitous. In this case, Kenneth Owens paid a chance visit to the New York Historical Society where he found the manuscript he has so engagingly edited and integrated into the wider history of Montana's early days.

Edwin Purple was a veteran of the California rushes where he supported himself as an entrepreneur, a storekeeper, a miner and a justice of the peace "without," in Owens' assessment, "ever running the risk of becoming wealthy." In 1860, he relocated to Salt Lake City with the Overland Mail. By 1862, circumstances and temperament had combined to send him north to the Salmon River country, Deer Lodge and Bannack City in search of his fortune. His travels and experiences over the next two years form the meat of his journal and provide insights into the multifaceted mind of the gold rusher. Purple was an adventurous trader, a more than competent shopkeeper, and a less than successful miner. At the same time he grubstaked others, invested in quartz mines, and profited by his efforts. Always, he was an observer of people and events surrounding him.

His journals are of most interest to students of Montana's early days. Purple left a record of his encounters with Mormons, mountain men, and miners. He paid particular attention to the lives and deaths associated with the Montana vigilante movements in Bannack City and Virginia City. As editor, Owens has taken great pains to integrate and assess Purple's observations in the light of others knowledgeable and often present on the scene.

In a wider context, Purple's narrative and the lives of those he describes provides a vivid reminder of the complexity of the mining west during the period of expansion and discovery. A person was rarely if ever a miner and nothing more. Often, the miner was equally a trader, a tradesman, a trapper and a host of other personas which made survival and chance fortune real possibilities.

Logan Hovis
Anchorage, Alaska

David Goodman. *Gold Seeking: Victoria and California in the 1850s*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994. 302 pp. notes, bib., index. \$45.00.

Comparative history is much touted, but far less executed. *Gold Seeking* avoids the comparative technique of the classical social science model, replete with controls and variables. On the contrary, Goodman opts for comparison at the local level, what he terms "sophisticated parochialism." Simply stated, the author's goal is the re-creation through contemporary sources, languages and ideologies, the gold rush societies of Victoria, Australia, and California in the early 1850s.

Goodman discovers that those who were optimistic about the California gold rush based their optimism on laissez-faire individualism. In essence, Californians sought the replication of the eastern society from whence they originated. However, Goodman concedes (thereby joining the J. A. G. Paddock debate) that he has no idea when individualism in California triumphed over Republicanism.

In contrast to California, Victorians placed their faith in institutions, not individuals. Their attitude was reflected in juxtapositions on such societal themes as law and order, agrarians vs. aristocrats, modernity vs. traditionalism. In sum, Australians desired the duplication of the cultural scene of Victorian Britain.

Whether down under or in the shadow of the Sierras, the gold seekers, argues the author, were "harbingers of modernity." Perhaps this was inevitable if one was to feel comfortable in a wealth seeking society, psychologically dominated by "excited lives" living in an atmosphere where calm and solitude seemed, at least for the immediate future, beyond reach.

Goodman has raised the interpretive stakes over much of our gold rush historiography to a higher level -- for which we can all give thanks.

Gene M. Gressley
Laramie, Wyoming

Wayne R. Kime, ed. *The Black Hills Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1996. 274 pp. bib. \$29.95.

The Black Hills of South Dakota are of special interest to mining historians. The discovery of gold by General George Armstrong Custer's troops in 1874 resulted in prospectors flocking illegally into Sioux reservation lands in the Black Hills, an action that prompted General Phil Sheridan to warn miners and prospectors to keep away. That the U. S. tried unsuccessfully to keep prospectors and miners out of the Black Hills after the gold discovery is widely known. The 1875 scientific expedition escorted by Colonel Richard Irving Dodge sheds light on the process by which the Black Hills were documented, and then appropriated, by westward-moving Anglo-Americans.

The Black Hills Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge make fascinating reading. A professor of English at West Virginia's Fairmont State College, editor Wayne Kime located Dodge's journals and edited them into a coherent single volume that sheds light on changing perceptions of the Black Hills and the nearby Badlands.

After a brief introduction that places Dodge in the context of those tumultuous

times in Western history, Kime then lets Dodge speak for himself. Dodge emerges as a man who was simultaneously cognizant of, and oblivious to, the growing tension between prospectors and native Americans. He mirrors a self-serving prejudice about the Indians -- namely, they did not "settle" the Black Hills -- an attitude that thus justified opening up of the area to exploitation by miners and ranchers.

As noted in his journals, Dodge confirmed that gold was indeed present, but stated candidly that he could, or would, do nothing to stem the tide of miners who were illegally developing claims there. The observation of the expedition's leader, geologist Walter [Horace] P. Jenney, figured prominently in the journal, as do Dodge's questioning of Jenny's conclusions; the considerable tension and animosity that developed between Jenny and Dodge makes fascinating reading.

So, too, does Dodge's opinion of other expedition members, including the colorful "California Joe." Dodge's descriptions of the landscape, flora and fauna of the Black Hills are astute and vivid. The area's profusion of game and notoriously fickle weather are frequent subjects, as are the gold deposits and the early activities of prospectors and miners.

Carefully edited so that various inconsistencies and errors are clarified, *The Black Hills Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge* also contains several recently-drawn maps that enable the reader to follow the route of Dodge's expeditions. The resulting volume is highly recommended to mining historians and, indeed, all students of Western and Native American history.

Richard Francaviglia
Arlington, Texas

More Book Notes

James H. Carson was with the army of conquest in California when news of the discovery of gold reached Monterey. Four years later, for the readers of the *San Joaquin Republican*, California, Carson related his experiences, among the earliest of the mines and in Americanized California. Peter Browning has rescued Carson's 1852 reminiscences from the obscure pages of the *Republican*, added footnotes and an introduction, plus a reprint of Lt. George H. Derby's report on his 1850 reconnaissance of the Tulare valley, which Carson described at length. The book is a good addition to gold rush literature. Order from Great West Books, P. O. Box 1028, Lafayette, CA 94549. paperback, \$12.95, plus \$2.50 shipping.

The reminiscence and diary of two of Tombstone, Arizona's boomtime participants have recently been published. The brief memoirs of Edward Schieffelin have been made available for the first time in a book courtesy the editing efforts of Marilyn Butler. *Destination Tombstone, Adventures of a Prospector, Edward Schieffelin, Founder of Tombstone, Arizona 1877* (Royal Spectrum Publishing, 2562 E. Evergreen, Mesa, AZ 85213, paper) is the reminiscences of the vagabond prospector who searched the Pacific Coast, the Southwest, and Alaska, but is best known for his discovery of the morbidly named mining claim, district and town in the hills of southeastern Arizona. Jim McBride provides an important introduction that places the memoir in context. The prolific Lynn R. Bailey has done a good service by editing and annotating the journals of George Whitwell Parsons, probably one of the best mining camp diaries ever kept in the Rocky Mountain mining camps. The book is worth the \$36.95 just because Parson's diary provides us an insiders view of Tombstone as it grew -- he was a good

observer. *A Tenderfoot in Tombstone, The Private Journal of George Whitwell Parsons: The Turbulent Years: 1880-1882* is available from Westernlore Press, P. O. Box 35305, Tucson, Arizona 85740, hardback.

Four Days from Fort Wingate: The Lost Adams Diggings by Richard French is the latest in the debate about this legendary mine in the mythical canyon del oro of Arizona. The story has some basis in fact in that era of the 1860s, when prospectors spread across the desert Southwest seeking rich placer grounds, as French details. However, the story expands to a mythological tale of Apache raiders, Spanish antecedents, and a German, "The Dutchman." The author explores the terrain where the treasure may still remain, but, like all others, fails in his own quest. Interesting reading and diversion for those interested in how powerful the dreams of easy riches persists. Available from Caxton Printers, Ltd., 312 Main Street, Caldwell, ID 83605-3299, \$9.95 paper.

Ohio University Press has reprinted Robert Silverberg's 1967 book, *The Golden Dream, Seekers of El Dorado*, about sixteenth century ambitions to find New World treasures. The searches of the conquistadors and of Sir Walter Raleigh are retold.

Boston Mills Press of Erin, Ontario has begun publishing a series of highly illustrated popular histories of mining in Canada. The book *Gold in Ontario* was examined and the publishers should be congratulated for their high quality publication. However, the history text by Michael Barnes contained too many errors or warn-out legends that could have been easily confirmed or corrected. The text is neither credible or readable. Buy this book for the pretty pictures if you wish but shop somewhere else if you are looking for a reliable and readable source of information. Patrick R. Chapin, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Mining camp aficionado Stan Paher has initiated a new guide series to historic mining regions and camps of the Far West. The first in the Early Mining Camp Days series, *California Gold Country*, is a colorful, large format 48 page booklet about the Mother Lode region authored by Paher with the assistance of Jerry Bowen. Published by KC Publications (P.O.Box 94558, Las Vegas, NV 89195-0196), well known for their "the story behind the scenery" booklets on parklands, is a good introduction to the gold rush story and the historic mining camps and sites that remain today on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. (cost, \$6.95) Paher's own Nevada Publications (Box 15444, Las Vegas, NV 89114) continues to add highly illustrated booklets to its list. The latest is Robert Stewart's *Aurora, Ghost City of the Dawn*, an introductory history of this 1860s silver camp on the Nevada-California line, near Bodie, the ghost

town California state park. The booklet is published with the support of the Friends of Bodie. (\$5.95)

An introductory book for younger readers is *The California Gold Rush, A Guide*, by Eugene Hart. Besides retelling the history of the rush, the overland journeys, and the work of mining, the book provides activities for "the classroom or on the road." Available from FreeWheel Publications, P. O. Box 3853, Merced, CA 95344 for \$14.95 plus \$2 shipping.

The October 1996 *Journal of the West* is a special edition on Mining in the 20th-Century West. Guest editor Duane Smith introduces the essays, which is led off by a piece on historic preservation of the 1860s gold camps by Robert Spude. Charles Hughes examines the smelting lawsuits of the Salt Lake Valley, 1904-1906; Chris Huggard gives the history of

Tyrone, New Mexico, Phelps-Dodge's planned community. Liping Zhu analyzes the Dawson, New Mexico coal mine disaster of October 22, 1913, in which 263 people lost their lives. Eric Clements studies the bust cycle of mining through the examples of Jerome and Tombstone, Arizona. And Glenn Cook rounds out the collection with a study of the economic impacts of the most recent gold boom on Elko, Nevada.

The Mining Environmental Handbook, Effects of Mining on the Environment and American Environmental Controls on Mining, J. J. Marcus, ed. provides a broad framework for understanding the natural and cultural resources impacts of mining. Geared for engineers and environmental coordinators, the 950 page volume is available from the Scientific Publishing Company, 1060 Main Street, River Edge, NJ 07661, \$168.00.

Mining History Association
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Denver, Colorado 80215

