

MINING HISTORY NEWS

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Historic Preservation

Shakespeare, New Mexico, a ghost town two-miles south of Lordsburg, had a devastating fire last April, which destroyed the blacksmith shop, main museum building, and the mercantile. Irreplaceable records of the Hill family were also lost. Janaloo Hill, who provides tours to this exceptional site, has initiated work on a fire suppression system and better facilities for protecting the remaining collections. Parties interested in helping with the work can either donate time or funds to Shakespeare Ghost Town Inc., P. O. Box 253, Lordsburg, N. M. 88045 or call 505-542-9034.

The Comstock Archeology Center, **Virginia City, Nevada**, has been recently created to provide a model historical archeology program for western mining camps. The center does field work in the former bonanza town and has nationally known advisers supporting the goal to preserve, study, and interpret the archeology of the Comstock. Former MHA board member Donald Hardesty of the University of Nevada, Reno heads the center.

Another **Virginia City**, this one in Montana, has attracted the attention of preservationists over the past few years. A major event was the recent acquisition by the State of the Bovey properties, the historic core of this 1860s-1870s gold camp and territorial capital. Much credit belongs to the local populous as well as

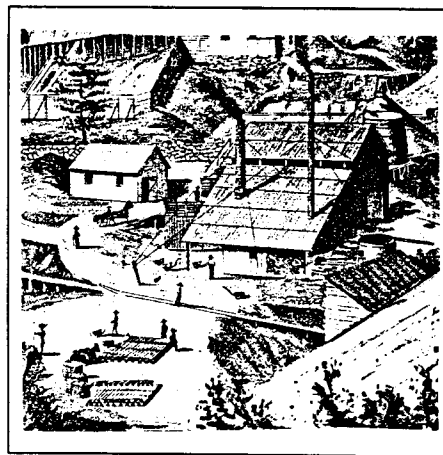
Governor Marc Racicot. The Montana Historical Society is seeking donations to assist in the proposed restoration work; anyone who has visited the site knows it's value. Tax-deductable donations can be sent to Virginia City Campaign, Montana Historical Society Foundation, P. O. Box 863, Helena, MT 59624.

The exquisite Lace House in **Black Hawk, Colorado** is under threat by the expansion of the Eagle Gaming casino. The city owns the Lace House but is considering relocating the classic gingerbread house to make way for a parking lot. Gaming legislation in Colorado was passed with the intention of helping preserve the mountain mining camps of Central City, Black Hawk and Cripple Creek. Again, the proponents of gambling have failed to value the historic resources of these one-time mining towns.

Ross Mainwaring in St. Ives, Australia sent a clipping from his local paper about the subsidence of the ground at **Tombstone, Arizona**. Caused by the collapse of the underground mine workings at the former silver camp, the crisis has been avoided by emergency bolstering. The "town too tough to die" continues to provide good copy for the international press. Eric Clement, who wrote his dissertation on the town's bust period, recently completed a survey of the historic mining sites of Tombstone. The survey now needs to be updated with new information about the reappearing mines of the district.

Conferences

The International Symposium on Mining, a celebration of the Alaska/Yukon Gold Rush Centennial, is scheduled for September 9-14, 1997 at the Carlson Center, Fairbanks, Alaska. Featured speakers include Pierre Berton, Melanie Mayer, Ken Kutz, Terrance Cole, Eric Clements, David Neufeld, Christina Rabe Seger, Robert King, Frank Norris, Rolfe Buzzell, Robin Mils, Becky Saleeby, Sally Zanjani, and others. Fairbanks in September is beautiful, with the tundra turning red, the birch leaves golden and the first termination dust atop the hills. The conference provides an opportunity to tour the mining fields to the north of town, historic placer gold camps and Yukon River villages. It should be a grand event. For more information call Festival Fairbanks at 907-456-1984 or e:mail them at: (festfbks@polarnet.com).



President's Page

What a great time at Houghton. The MHA conference could not have been better. We had a great turnout, good weather, superb papers, a fine hotel, and good meals. In addition, the trips to the Quincy Mine and the Copper Country were both informative and fun, especially if you like underground tours and a great collection of old and picturesque mine sites.

I want to express my thanks to Erik and Jane Nordberg, who planned things down to the last detail and made everything run without a hitch. The conference could not have succeeded without their help.

Now that we have had a few minutes to relax, it is time to begin thinking about next year. The MHA council voted to hold the 1998 convention in Bisbee, Arizona, the first weekend in June. For those not familiar with the area, Bisbee is just north of the Mexican border and has long been a copper mining center. The town features many historic buildings; the Queen Mine, Lavender Pit, and other mine sites; and other nearby mining areas such as Tombstone and Douglas. Because there are many quaint Bed and Breakfasts as well as the historic Copper Queen Hotel available in Bisbee, we will distribute lodging information as early as possible.

Finally, the MHA is planning to create a membership brochure as a way of encouraging new members. There has been some decline in membership and we need to recruit new blood in order to continue publishing the journal and maintain the office. I know from personal experience that there are many potential members out there who have never heard of the MHA. If you have any thoughts on other ways to increase membership, let me know. I can be reached at the address below.

Bob Trennert
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Organization Notes

Call for Papers, Bisbee Conference, MHA. The 1998 MHA conference will be held in Bisbee, Arizona, June 4-7. The program committee -- Robert Trennert, Homer Milford, and Erik Nordberg -- are accepting early proposals for consideration for the program. The proposal should include title, paragraph abstract and brief biographical information. Sessions include three papers of twenty minutes each. Session proposals are also welcome. Please send your proposals by December 1 to Erik Nordberg at MHA Bisbee 98', P. O. Box 552, Houghton, Michigan 49931. Or call Erik at 906-487-2505, FAX 906-487-2357, e:mail (copper@mtu.edu). Additional information is available from Erik or Robert Trennert, Department of History, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-2501 and Homer Milford, New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division, 2040 South Pacheco St., Santa Fe, NM 87505.

For information about Bisbee on the World Wide Web tap in: <http://members.aol.com/MiningHA/bisbee.htm>

MHA at WHA. As in the past there will be a Thursday morning Mining History breakfast at the annual Western History Association meeting. The WHA meets in St. Paul, MN October 15-18 at the Radisson Hotel. For registration materials and details on the breakfast write WHA 1080 Mesa Vista Hall, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1181 or call 505-277-5234. e:mail (pcamp@mail.unm.edu).

During the Houghton meeting Jeremy Mouat of the University of Athabasca, Alberta, was awarded the MHA's **Rodman Paul Award** for outstanding contributions to mining history. Mouat has published on mining labor and technological innovation as well as a book length monograph on the Rossland,

British Columbia mining area, titled *Roaring Days*. Mouat is a past board member and an often presenter at the annual MHA meetings. He coordinated the 1996 conference held in Rossland, British Columbia.

The **John M. Townley Award** for the best article published in the 1996 *Mining History Journal* went to James M. Bailey for his essay "'Keeping People from Being Killed': Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, Public Safety, and the Phelps Dodge Copper Strike, 1983-1984." Bailey is a doctoral candidate at Arizona State University.

Houghton Conference First Class

Our four days in Houghton, Michigan for the annual mining history conference were superb, from the beginning reception at Michigan Tech to the final bus ride down the peninsula as a setting sun reflected a copper-colored glow on Lake Superior. How Erik and Jane Nordberg mastered the details we will never know, but they were much appreciated. The sessions had a good mix of Canadian and American mining history, the banquet talk by Larry Lankton was entertaining and educational, and the town was a perfect setting -- my hotel room overlooked Portage Lake channel, with the Quincy mine in the distance. Thanks, again to all who helped put this event together.

**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.

Recent publications on the history of mining. The following list contains articles and dissertations that relate to the history of mining. It includes all types of mining in North America. Thanks to those who sent in suggestions and we welcome recommendations for the next listing. Lysa Wegman-French, compiler.

- Alverson, Bruce. "'The Camp Without a Failure': Searchlight, 1903-1909." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 39, no. 3 (Fall 1996): 182-200.
- Ansell, Martin Raymond. "Hero or Villain: A Reinterpretation of the Life and Career of Edward L. Doheny." PhD. dissertation, The University of Texas at Austin, 1996.
- Baum, Dan. "Butte, America." *American Heritage* 48, no. 2 (April 1997): 57-66.
- Benedict, Hope Ann. "Place and Community in the Mining West: Lemhi County, Idaho, 1866-1929." PhD. dissertation, University of Oregon, 1996.
- Brown, Tricia. "Dear Wife and Babys: The Gold Rush Letters of Rufus Simpson, part 1." *Alaska* 62, no. 2 (March 1996): 32-37. [1897-1899 Alaska gold rush.]
- Chenoweth, William L. "Raw Materials Activities of the Manhattan Project on the Colorado Plateau." *Nonrenewable Resources* 6, no. 1 (1997): 33-41.
- Coggin, H. Mason. "Roots of the Calumet and Arizona: A Short History of the Calumet and Arizona Company." Part 1. *Collector's Mining Review* no. 3 (Spring 1997): 28-36.
- Davidson, Carla. "Fields of Gold." *American Heritage* 48, no. 3 (May 1997): 24-28. [Klondike]
- DeMassey, Ernest. "Diary of a Frenchman: Trinity River Placers, 1850." *California Geology* 50, no. 2 (March/April 1997): 45-56.
- Dolph, Jerry. "Relive Idaho's Gold Rush." *Rock & Gem* 26, no. 7 (1996): 20+.
- Ehrenreich, Robert M. "Mining Communities in History: An Industrial Legacy." *JOM* 48 (December 1996): 54-56.
- Elliott, Gary E. "Senators, Subsidies, and Silver Mismanagement in the Kennedy-Johnson Years." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 39, no. 4 (Winter 1996): 257+. [Legislation regarding the use of silver.]
- Eveleth, Robert W. "Minerals and Mining History of the Fierro-Hanover District, Grant County, New Mexico." In *Sixteenth Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium* held in Socorro, 11-12 November 1995. Socorro: New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources.
- French, William E. *A Peaceful and Working People: Manners, Morals, and Class Formation in Northern Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1996. [Includes chapters: "The Great Awakening: Mine Workers, Companies, and the Mexican Revolution" and "'Honorable' Workers and 'Evil' Reactionaries: Mining in the Early 1920s."]
- Frickel, Scott, and William R. Freudenburg. "Mining the Past: Historical Context and the Changing Implications of Natural Resource Extraction." *Social Problems* 43, no. 4 (November 1996): 444-466. [Rural residents expectations of prosperity from natural resource extraction have not been fulfilled in the 20th century.]
- Gonzales, Michael J. "U.S. Copper Companies, the Mine Workers' Movement, and the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 76, no. 3 (August 1996): 503-534.
- Grattan-Aiello, Carolyn. "The Chinese Community of Pioche, 1870-1900." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 39, no. 3 (Fall 1996): 201-215.
- Green, L. "The Klondike Discovery." *Canoma* 22, no. 1 (1996): 11-15.
- Hanson Holly. "'Mill Girls' and 'Mine Boys': The Cultural Meanings of Migrant Labour." *Social History* 21, no. 2 (May 1996): 160-179.
- Harner, John. "Place Meaning and Neoliberalism in Sonoran Copper-Mining Towns." *Geographical Review* 86, no. 1 (January 1996): 115-116.
- Hines, E. "McCulloch's Rock Engine House: An Antebellum Cornish Style Ore Mill Near Jamestown, North Carolina." *Material Culture* 27, no. 3 (1996): 1-28.
- James, Ronald M. "Timothy Francis McCarthy: An Irish Immigrant Life on the Comstock." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 39, no. 4 (Winter 1996): 300-308.
- Kendall, Robert E. "Deep Enough: The Pitfalls and Perils of Deep Mining on the Comstock." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 39, no. 3 (Fall 1996): 216-231.
- Kenny, James L. "A New Dependency: State, Local Capital, and the Development of New Brunswick's Base Metal Industry, 1960-70." *Canadian Historical Review* 78, no. 1 (March 1997): 1-39.
- Kostyal, K.M. "Coal Diggers' Ways." *National Geographic Traveler* 13, no. 5 (September 1996): 116. [Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, West Virginia.]
- Kral, Steve. "Colorado Mining Association Celebrates its Centennial." *Mining Engineering* 49 (April 1997): 40-44.

- Laythe, Joseph Willard. "Bandits and Badges: Crime and Punishment in Oregon, 1875-1915." PhD. dissertation, 1996.
- Lifson, Amy. "I Owe My Soul to the Company Store." *Humanities* 17, no. 3 (July-August 1996): 42-43. [Mining towns in Pennsylvania.]
- Moore, John J. "W. J. Kroll: 'A Metallurgist of the Unusual; The Amphibious and Recalcitrant Lone Wolf Researcher.'" *Colorado School of Mines Quarterly Review of Engineering, Science, Education and Research* 96, no. 4 (1996): 17-22.
- Murray, Jeffrey S. "Selling Golden Dreams." *Canadian Geographic* 116, no. 6 (November 1996): 46-47. [Historic promotional maps of the Klondike.]
- Oliner, Stan. "Headquarters to High Chic." *Denver Business Journal* 47, no. 40 (14 June 1996): 34A. [History of Hendrie & Bolthoff company which designed, molded and machined mining equipment.]
- Orndorff, E.M. "Recapturing the Historical Geography of Forksville, Pennsylvania." *Pennsylvania Geographer* 34, no. 1 (1996): 74-88.
- Pakes, G. "Developments in Civil Engineering Tunnelling." *Mining Technology* 78, no. 897 (1996): 127-130.
- Peterson, Richard H. "The Ironic Tragedy of James Marshall." *International California Mining Journal* 66, no. 5 (January 1997): 18-20, 23.
- Phimister, I.R. "The Chrome Trust: The Creation of an International Cartel, 1908-38." *Business History* 38, no. 1 (January 1996): 77+.
- Pierce, Michael. "The Gutman-Hill Debate Revisited: R. F. Warren and the National Executive Board of the United Mine Workers." *Labor History* 38 (Winter 1996-97): 76-79. [African-American membership in the UMW.]
- Pope, James Gray. "Labor's Constitution of Freedom." *Yale Law Journal* 106, no. 4 (January 1997): 941-1031. ["Constitutional strike" by 10,000 coal miners against the Kansas Industrial Court Act of 1920.]
- Poulsen, Jane D. "The Politics of Institutional Decline: The Fragmentation of Collective Bargaining in the United States Coal, Steel and Tires Industries, 1946-1990." PhD. dissertation, New York University, 1997.
- Pringle, Heather. "Forgotten Claims." *Canadian Geographic* 116, no. 6 (November 1996): 36-46. [Efforts to restore the Han culture after their lands were invaded during the Klondike gold rush.]
- Roberts, Ron E. "The Roots of Labor's Demiurge: Iowa's John L. Lewis." *Journal of the West* 35, no. 2 (April 1996): 10-18.
- Rocha, Guy Louis. "The Many Images of the Comstock Miners' Unions." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 39, no. 3 (Fall 1996): 163-181.
- Rosemeyer, Tom. "The Cliff [copper mine on the Keweenaw Peninsula of Upper Michigan]." *Rocks & Minerals* 71, no. 6 (November-December 1996): 381.
- Safford, Jeffrey J. "'Bated by a 'Color' of Gold to a Mountain of Granite': Connecticut Capital at Work in the Montana Goldfields, 1865-1868." Part 1 *Montana* 47, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 2-13.
- Samuels, Sheldon. "A Moral History of the Evolution of a Caste of Workers." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 104, no. 5 (October 1996): 991. [Social and biological implications among uranium miners.]
- Seager, Allen. "Frank Slide." *Beaver* 76, no. 2 (April-May 1996): 41+. [1903 landslide in coal mining area of Canada.]
- Sobel, Robert. "The Little Board: The Consolidated Exchange Once Gave the Big Board Stiff Competition." *Barron's* 76 (15 April 1996): 22. [The New York Mining Exchange, the American Mining and Stock Exchange and others merged to form the CSE in 1885.]
- Sofchalk, Donald G. "Steel Workers Organizing Committee and the Minnesota Iron Miners, 1937-1941." *Journal of the West* 35, no. 2 (April 1996): 33-41.
- Spieldoch, Rachel L. "Uranium is in My Body." *American Indian Culture & Research Journal* 20, no. 2 (1996): 173-185. [The Navajo perceive the world as an interconnected whole; uranium mining disturbed the Navajo fabric of life in the 1940s and '50s.]
- Spindler, Garold R. "The History of U.S. Longwall Mining." *Coal Age* 101 (September 1996): 122+.
- Stone, Thomas. "Creating Moral Economies: Reciprocity and Welfare Entitlements on the Yukon Mining Frontier." *Journal of Socio-Economics* 25, no. 5 (1996): 537-558.
- "There's Gold in Then Thar Names." *Alaska Geographic* 116, no. 6 (November 1996): 48. [Yukon Territory]
- Thompson, Sharon Elaine. "One for the Money." *Lapidary Journal* 50, no. 5 (August 1996): 42-46+. [Butte copper baron William Andrews Clark's wealth bought him a U.S. Senate seat in a corrupt election.]
- Tidball, Eugene C. "What Ever Happened to the Anaconda Company?" *Montana* 47, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 60-68.
- Webb, Jeff. "Canada's Moose River Mine Disaster (1936): Radio-Newspaper Competition in the Business of News." *Historical Journal of Film Radio & Television* 16 (August 1996): 365+.

Book Reviews

Mary Murphy. *Mining Cultures: Men, Women, and Leisure in Butte, 1914-1941*. Women in American History Series. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997.

"What a people does with its leisure... affords a sensitive index to its values," observed Helen Lynd and Robert Lynd in their study *Middletown*. Mary Murphy has taken up the lens of leisure to view Butte, Montana in the years from World War I to World War II. That time period proved to be paradoxical; while trying to cope with an economic depression, population decline, shifting gender roles and a defeated labor movement, Butte residents enjoyed a proliferation of commercial amusements. Movie theaters, dance halls, arcades, department stores, amusement parks, and speakeasies became common in the 1920s. The consumer culture invited people to spend their increased disposable income on ready-to-wear clothing, beauty aids, Victrolas, radios and automobiles.

The societal changes that faced the nation during those twenty-seven years were magnified in Butte. Having been a mining city since the 1860s, on the eve of World War I Butte was still populated predominately by single men, who enjoyed "the rough pleasures of a wide-open town." This male-dominated working-class city began to change in the 1920s and '30s, due to changing gender roles and a shift in demographics. In 1920, for the first time in Butte's history, over 50% of Butte's men were married, a result of the Anaconda Company's selection of married men over single men, in an effort to weed out "radicals." In the next decades, women and families took on a greater role in shaping the community.

Murphy demonstrates that recreation in Butte in the 1920s and '30s involved a tug-of-war between men, seeking to maintain traditional male amusements, and women, seeking greater involvement

in them. Rather than simply integrating the male domains, such as saloons, new heterosocial institutions were created, such as speakeasies, nightclubs, and dance halls.

Murphy divided her book into seven chapters. The first consists of a social and historical overview which provides the basis for understanding Butte's society at the beginning of the era. The next chapter begins in the early twentieth century with drinking being one of the most gender-segregated activities in the U.S.; Murphy explains that prohibition contributed to the creation of new social spaces in which both men and women could drink. "Manners and Morals" discusses the changing lives of young American women as played out in Butte: they embraced shorter dresses, bobbed hair, cosmetics, dating, jazz, dance halls, employment, and more independence, while worrying the older generation that they may join the city's estimated 400 prostitutes. The changing roles of women during this period are exemplified by occupational shifts. Butte's economy was based on copper mining, which employed extremely few women; employment opportunities for women were thus limited. In 1910, the most common local occupations for females were servant, boardinghouse keeper, teacher, prostitute and dressmaker. However, the national trend toward feminization of clerical work came to Butte by 1920, when stenographer, typist, cashier, bookkeeper and accountant replaced the occupations of boardinghouse keeper, prostitute and dressmaker.

The public male culture is discussed in the next chapter, "Born Miners." Murphy contends that the miners who chose a physically demanding, hazardous occupation were attracted to elements of risk-taking and bravado in their recreation. Indeed, Butte men openly and widely enjoyed prizefighting and gambling, even though both were illegal. However, Murphy traces the increasing involvement of women in both those activities, which altered the character of

the sports. Subsequent chapters discuss voluntary associations, the effect of the local radio station, and New Deal programs.

Much has been written about the history Butte, but most of it stops in 1920, after the city's "boisterous youth came to a bloody end," and the city began to decline. Murphy's book is therefore a welcome insight into twentieth century Butte. She does a commendable job of analyzing the complicated web of the city's society and the changes it underwent during a complex national social revolution. This well written book is highly recommended for those interested in social history (especially of mining communities), twentieth-century history, popular culture, and women's history.

Lysa Wegman-French
Boulder, Colorado

Richard W. Hazlett and Donald W. Hyndman. *Roadside Geology of Hawai'i*. Missoula: Mountain Press, 1996. 307pp. \$20 paper.

Not surprisingly, the two authors are both geology professors with considerable writing and lecturing experience. Professor Hazlett currently teaches at Pomona College in Claremont, CA, and his previous experiences include tours of duty at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i Volcano Observatory and geology professor at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Donald Hyndman is a co-founder of the Roadside Geology series and teaches geology at the University of Montana.

With *Roadside Geology of Hawai'i* as your traveling companion, you could become an expert on lava flows and lava tubes, ancient beaches and coral reefs, massive landslide escarpments, ephemeral black sand beaches, lava shields and cinder cones. The book begins with an introduction to the geology of Hawai'i that includes a well illustrated, nontechnical explanation of a "hot spot" deep beneath the ocean floor.

Molten rock erupting from the hot spot onto the ocean floor has created the chain of volcanoes that we call the Hawaii Islands. There is a chapter on each of the inhabited and easily accessible main islands that you may want to explore. Each chapter begins with a general discussion of the rocks of that island, then proceeds with a series of road guides that provide the local details.

With this book in hand on your next trip to the Hawaii Islands you could acquire an excellent understanding of volcanic geology. You will not learn much about mining history but you might gain a better understanding of the geologic processes that helped form some of the world's famous volcanogenic ore deposits.

Roadside Geology of Hawai'i is the twentieth in the Roadside Geology series. Mining Historians will be interested in other books in the series that cover such prominent mining States as Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Northern California, and South Dakota.

Bob Weldin
Spokane, Washington

Stephen M. Voynick. *Climax: The History of Colorado's Climax Molybdenum Mine*. Missoula: Mountain Press, 1996. 366 pages. \$20 paper.

Climax Moly has one of the longest continuous histories of producing mines in the West. It also has the distinction of being the leading producer of molybdenum over its many years of production. Voynick's history of the Climax mine is a well written account of the discovery of this unique metal and mine, the development of the mine and markets for molybdenum by the company, and, finally, the end of operation in 1982. The author has succeeded in his goal to write an interesting history.

Documentation of sources are few, however, which is a pity because the

lack of documentation of the many single-sided stories bring them into question. Footnotes are absent, while the author provides a brief sources and acknowledgements final chapter. Once the historian gets beyond the documentation issue, the story line is interesting and hard to walk away from. The book covers the entire period from initial prospecting in 1879 through 1994 about equally well. Discussions include problems with the mining law as well as the fight between counties over disputed county boundaries (and potential tax-base).

The reader is introduced to Climax's method of dealing with issues common to the mining industry. These include the topics of labor disputes, business economics, social history related to mining towns, greed, and problems of mining in areas with extreme weather conditions. The reader comes away with a better understanding of these effects not only on the miners, but also on their families. There is also a good description of the problems of maintaining a consistent workforce in these conditions, even during such hard economic times as the Great Depression.

Voynick does a good job of creating a readable history of Climax and the surrounding communities, including Leadville. This history replaces earlier works and provides an understanding of the company's impact on those who worked there or lived nearby, on Colorado economics, and the mineral markets of the world.

Glenn S. Cook
Denver, Colorado

Larry Lankton. *Beyond the Boundaries, Life and Landscape at the Lake Superior Copper Mines, 1840-1875*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. 247 pages.

The social history of the mining frontier should be written and researched as well as Larry Lankton's *Beyond the Boundaries*. Using as his framework

"water, woods, and winter" -- the obvious environmental constraints and definers of life on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula -- Lankton details how the copper mining communities and their residents evolved from frontier conditions into the late nineteenth century industrial towns and complexes that dominates our image of the Michigan copper country.

Lankton uses letters, diaries, reminiscences, newspapers and a host of secondary sources to flesh out the personal tale of people leaving their homes in the settled parts of the country for the "wilderness" of upper Michigan. By the end of the period under discussion the settlers who stayed viewed the wilderness as a place of beauty, a part of their safe towns. A transformation had occurred; Lankton describes how. Lankton also details the little things, the foodstuffs and homes, varied jobs and how residents felt about schools and religion, diversions sinful and not so, and the impact of failed ventures or broken homes.

Lankton, a history professor at Michigan Tech, has benefitted from Michigan Tech's active historic archeology program. He uses the uncommon to historians sources of material cultural and artifacts to help understand the people of early Keweenaw.

One cannot read this work without mentally comparing the Keweenaw's frontier history with the contemporary developments in California. How similar they appear in their first decade of mining. Both frontiers gave a region of the country distinctive characteristics, but how different were those California and Michigan mining societies by the late 1870s -- too many to detail here. But Lankton's focus is on the beginnings of the Michigan copper mining era. The book is a treat to read and a worthy contribution to helping us understand frontier mining societies.

Robert L. Spude
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Archive News

U.C. Berkeley: At the turn of the century the Mining College of the University of California, Berkeley, was one of the premier mining engineering schools in the country. Last year the graduating senior who was president of the UC Mining Association brought to the Bancroft Library the cartons containing the archives of the club which was coming to an end because she was the last undergraduate mining student and was leaving for a job with a major mining company. The papers will augment Bancroft mining records going back to the beginning of the California Gold Rush. The former major in mining is now called Earth Resources Engineering, and the department is called Material Science and Mineral Engineering. There is still one course offered in mining engineering, both surface and underground; four undergraduate and eight graduate courses are offered in extractive metallurgy.

Berkeley's Hearst memorial Mining Building, built in 1907, is being transformed to keep up with the times. The four story Beaux Arts building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is seismically strengthened and upgraded into a center for study and research in 21st century technical innovation, at a cost of \$60 million. University Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien says of these changes, "New materials research is...at the forefront of California's future, just as mining was at the turn of the century. It is exciting to see this continuum."

Documenting the ups and downs of mining in the past eight decades is an oral history series on Western Mining in the Twentieth Century, a project of the Regional Oral History Office at the Bancroft Library. Since 1986, the oral history office has completed more than forty volumes of interviews with nearly 100 significant persons in mining. The oral histories cover careers from Alaska to Chile, from Siberia to Indonesia and Africa, on every continent except

Antarctica; there are eyewitness accounts of major mining successes and failures. The oral histories are available through the office at 486 Library, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Eleanor Swent
Berkeley, California

Michigan Tech is offering a research support award for up to \$500 for travel, food, and lodging in order to carry out research using the collections of the MTU Archives. Funds are from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. For further information contact the University Archivist, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, J. Robert Van Pelt Library, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. Tel 906-487-2505.

Researcher Requests Help

Lawrence Berkove is searching for post-1910 issues of *Mining and Financial News*, a George Graham Rice promotion puffing journal published in New York City. If you know of copies please contact him at University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI 48128.

Museums

The Tenth Anniversary banquet of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum will be held in Leadville, September 6-7. The Key note speaker is former MHA president Duane Smith, professor at Fort Lewis College. Contact the museum at P.O.Box 981, Leadville, CO 80461 for more details.

The Silverton Historical Society has acquired the Mayflower mill, a flotation mill of the 1920s, adjacent the Colorado community. The significant mill operated into the 1980s and contains much of its original machinery, a rarity in the mining west. The society operates a museum and interprets this and other sites in the Silverton area.

Conferences

The Fourth International Conference on Mining History is back on. Colleagues at the Institute of History and Anthropology in Mexico City have taken on the task of organizing that event in 1998. No details available yet, but look for them in the next newsletter.

The Sociedad Sonorense de Historia's annual conference will focus on the state of Sonora's mining past. Titled "Sonora: Cuatro Siglos de Minera," the conference will be held in Hermosillo November 24-29. For more information write the society at Rosales No. 123, Centro. Apdo. Postal. 158, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico 83000, or call 91 (62) 17-10-64.

Book Notes

Gary F. Kurutz has compiled a monumental tool for the mining historian: *The California Gold Rush. A Descriptive Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets Covering the Years 1848-1853*. The 771 page tome contains 707 individual listings with summaries. J. S. Holliday provides an introduction. The Book Club of California, San Francisco published this superb work. \$150.

Klondike women are getting deserved attention, especially as the centennial of that gold rush draws near. Claire Rudolf Murphy and Jane G. Haigh have written a popular account titled *Gold Rush Women*, which tells in photographs and brief biographies about twenty-three women who participated in the last grand adventure, from the wife of the discoverer of Bonanza Creek, Native Kate Carmack, to dance hall queen Klondike Kate Rockwell, from prospector Nellie Cashman to member of Parliament Martha Louise Munger Black. The stories are well told and interspersed with the gold rush context in which these women lived. Excellent photographs and maps add to this attractive volume available from Alaska

Northwest Books, P. O. Box 10306, Portland, OR 97296-0306 (\$16.95). Archon Books has reprinted Anna DeGraf's wonderfully written reminiscences about her days in the far north, 1892-1917. Edited by her great-great-grandson, Roger S. Brown, who thankfully did not try to retell the story of the gold rush, but let Anna speak for herself, the book provides a more personal view of Klondike era society. She commented on the gold camps, among them Juneau, Circle City, and, especially, Dawson. Available from Archon books, 2 Lindley St., North Haven, CT 06473-2517 (\$19.50).

Johnny Grant was a Montana Cattle Baron (his home is now Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site near Deer Lodge, MT), but in the 1860s Montana gold rush era he supplied the miners -- he claims he helped the discoverers of Montana's first big strike at Bannack by

providing much needed beef and flour -- and participated in the vigilante's work to rid the gold fields of road agents. Grant's memoirs recount the 1847-1867 period in the Northwest. Though they contain limited information about the gold camps, there is much on trade, freighting and the lawlessness of the Montana gold rush era. For Grant there is no doubt about the guilt of sheriff Henry Plummer, lynched in January 1864 as ringleader of a band of thieves and murderers. Lyndel Meikle has superbly annotated the text. *Very Close to Trouble, the Johnny Grant Memoir* is available from Washington State University Press, P. O. Box 645910, Pullman, WA 99164-5910.

Rochester was one of the many boom and bust camps of early twentieth century Nevada. Marianne Babal in *Rochester, Nevada, the New Tonopah* has chronicled the camps discovery,

glory days and waning in a new publication by Western Places, Alan Patera, editor. Patera adds a postal history to this well illustrated booklet. Western Place, P. O. Box 2093, Lake Grove OR 97035.

BLM Update

Randsburg, California, after 102 years, has finally become legal. In a landmark decision, the Bureau of Land Management agreed to convey land title to residents of the townsite, which was never patented and thus remained public domain through various booms and busts. Discovered in 1895, the gold mines of the Randsburg district brought the townsite into existence. Businesses have operated here ever since. But until an agreement last December, owners of homes and businesses lacked title to their land -- and in June, the BLM conveyed 56 parcels to long-time residents.

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