

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 10 · April 1999 · Number 2

Ouray, Colorado '99

Don't miss a great opportunity to visit Colorado's fabulous San Juan Mountains mining country, one of the nation's premier mining regions. The Tenth Annual Mining History Association Conference will meet in Ouray, Colorado, June 3-6 and we're putting the finishing touches on what will surely be an interesting meeting.

Ouray is in the heart of the San Juan Mountains, a mineral-rich piece of Colorado's Rocky Mountain Mining Country. Mines cling to the sides of 14,000+ feet high peaks. The country is rugged, with the mining communities in the valley at 8,000 feet or more. This popular country includes much left from the mining booms of the last century, including the winding narrow gauge tourist railroad from Durango to Silverton. Ouray, "the Gem of the Rockies," sits in a striking amphitheater at the head of the Uncompahgre River.

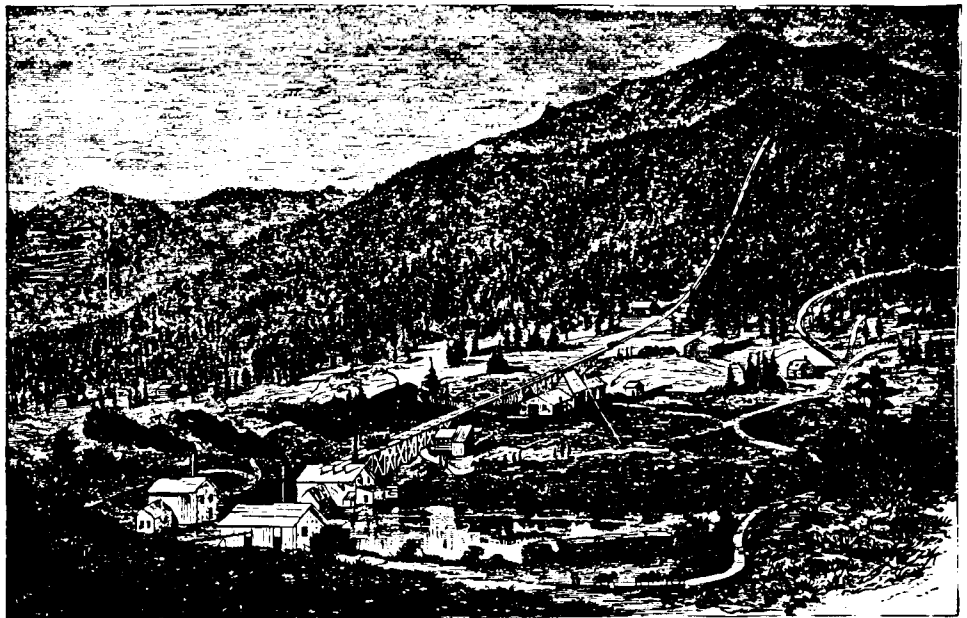
Colorado's mining legacy dates to the prehistoric period. Prehistoric peoples, primarily the Anasazi, built spectacular dwellings, most notably at what is now Mesa Verde National Park, well worth a side venture. Early Spanish explorations noted the mineral potential, but left only place names. Rumors of mineral riches, spread shortly after the '59ers rush to Pikes Peak. Mining was slow to start because of isolation. The arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad hastened the first major boom, in the 1870s and 1880s. Ouray, Telluride, and Silverton arose in the Silver San Juans.

During the course of the following half century the region became one of the top ten hard rock gold and silver regions of the United States. The Camp Bird, Smuggler, Old Hundred, and a host of other operations brought the San Juans worldwide prominence, while paying dividends that paid for mansions in Washington, D. C. and other Eastern cities. Mining, a vital part of the local economy, continues sporadically today.

Conference participants will tour the Camp Bird gold mine, one of the richest in the region. An all day tour on Sunday will visit Red Mountain, the Old Hundred, Mayflower mill, and Silverton, but do save some time to also explore this magnificent country on your own.

Hotels

We will not have a conference hotel. All but special events or tours will be held in the Ouray Community Center on Sixth Avenue near the corner of Fourth St. For accommodations call the Ouray Chamber Resort Association at 1-800-228-1876 or see their Homepage at www.ouraycolorado.com. There are many choices of lodging -- B&Bs in Victorian homes, motels, historic inns, etc. -- since Ouray is a popular summer destination. The town is small, so walking from your hotel to the community center should be easy, just be prepared for a day or two adjustment to that rarified Colorado Rocky Mountain air.



THE LITTLE ANNIE MINE.

President's Page

I mentioned in the last MHA Newsletter that archaeology, the study of physical remains, is one of the many roads into mining's past. That brings up the often controversial issue of whether or not mining-related archaeological sites should be preserved. Most of us find it easy to understand why large and impressive buildings and structures that are still standing at historic mining sites should be preserved. They are clearly visible symbols of mining's past and evoke appropriate responses from us. But we find the often buried archaeological remains of mining operations less satisfying. Sometimes, to be sure, the remains are sufficiently visible to convey to the visitor their association with mining's past. More often, however, mining sites are best thought of as "repositories" of historical information, analogous to archives of paper documents. Working in these repositories, of course, require quite different methods and that is what makes archaeology unique. In some cases, mining sites are the only source of information about the mines and miners that once existed there, which makes it somewhat easier to understand the historical importance of such archaeological archives. But what about the more common instances where written accounts and other documents also provide historical information about mining sites? Aren't the archaeological repositories worthless or at least less valuable under these circumstances? Why not just "excavate" in documentary archives for a cheaper and more detailed glimpse of mining's past? Difficult questions, to be sure, but at least part of the answer lies in relevance, independence, and synergy.

The issue of relevance comes from the potentially quite different types of information to be found in documents and the archaeological record. First and foremost, information from written accounts often provides the "insiders" view of just a few literate people from a

socially and politically dominant group that may or may not correspond with the "grass roots" data about actual behavior coming from archaeology. Secondly, the data may not be relevant to the most significant research questions. Thus, abundant documentary information about the philosophy and politics of a mine manager or owner may be of limited value in answering questions about, for example, the consumer behavior or household organization or domestic technology of miners.

But perhaps even more important than "relevance" is the issue of the "independence" of data acquired from the archaeological record, documents, and oral testimony. Bill Rathje and Cullen Murphy's (HarperCollins, 1992) book *Rubbish!* describes exactly this kind of problem. They collected information about foodways and other consumer behavior of modern domestic households in three ways: written questionnaires, interviewing the residents, and the "archaeological" study of trash cans containing refuse from the household (Yuck!). Data about foodways in particular acquired from questionnaires and oral testimony differed quite dramatically from the "grass roots" observations taken from the archaeological record.

Finally, redundancy must be considered within the context of interplay between documents and archaeology that lead to synergies of interpretation, great "leaps" in understanding that would not be possible using either source of information about the past alone. The information content of mining sites lies not just in physical remains but in the interplay between the archaeological record, paper documents, and other sources of information about the site. James Deetz (*Science* 239: 362-367, 1988) suggests such an "interactive" approach to writing history using multiple sources of information about the past. In this approach, a beginning model or first approximation of community, household, or other social formation is developed from preliminary historical or

archaeological research or both. The model then is used to identify hypotheses that can be tested with new documentary and archaeological data. Finally, the beginning model is revised to reflect the results of the new information, leading to yet other hypotheses that can be tested and further refinement of the model. The cyclical development of the model is typical of the strategy. In this way, the research strategy will develop in a series of phases in order to maximize the interpretive potential of data gathered in the field. Thus, the "construction" of history from multiple sources of evidence is cyclical and continuously evolving.

Let's look for this concept while touring Ouray. See you there.

Donald L. Hardesty
Reno, Nevada

Nominations Open

MHA's nominating committee Duane Smith, Ruth Ann Gardner, and James Edgerley, will be accepting nominations at our annual conference. Please share your ideas.

MHA Web Page

Membership chair Glenn Cook has our web page up and running. The address for the new Homepage is: <http://www.sni.net/~cookg/mha/> Or contact Glenn directly at cookg@sni.net

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.

Mining History Association Annual Conference Ouray, Colorado, June 3-6, 1999

Thursday June 3, 1999

2 p.m. Registration opens at the Ouray County Museum.

Tours of the Ouray museum ongoing.

5:30 p.m. Welcoming reception at the Ouray Community Center

7:00 p.m. "Mining in the San Juans," by Tom Rosemeyer, Ouray Community Center

Friday June 4, 1999

8 a.m. Registration opens at the Ouray Community Center

8:30 a.m.- Noon Tour of Camp Bird mine with Tom Rosemeyer. Meet at community center and drive on your own to mine.

Lunch in the Ouray Park hosted by Ouray County Historical Society

A double-jacking "contest" coincide with the lunch

All Presentations and Sessions to be in the Ouray Community Center

1:30-2:35 Session I, Colorado Mining, Duane Smith, chair

"The Idarado Mine" by Andrew Hardy; "Leadville and EPA" by Ed Raines; "Red Mountain Mines" by Bob McCulloch

2:45-3:50 Session II, Miners and Their Mines, Karen Vendl, chair

"Vermont's Elizabeth Mine" by Johnny Johnson; "Choctaw Beer and the Oklahoma Coal Industry" by Steven Sewell; "T. A. Rickard in Colorado" by Ed Hunter;

3:55-4:35 Session III, Mining and Labor, Mark Langenfeld, chair

"Spencer Penrose" by Tom Noel; "Labor Issues" by Harry Siebert

4:45 MHA Business Meeting

6:00 p.m. Annual Banquet at the Ouray Community Center

"The Song of the Hammer and Drill," Duane Smith, Fort Lewis College

Saturday June 5, 1999, Ouray Community Center

8 :30—9:35 Session IV, Culture Comes to Mining Camps, Bob Spude, chair

"Songs of North America's Mining Communities" by John O'Donnell; "You can't fight God and Prosper" by Roger Henn; "Railroads, Mining, and Victorian Culture" by Steve baker.

9:45-10:55, Session V, Mining Technology, Eric Clements, chair

"Steam Shaft Sinking" by Scott Altenback; "Dirty (Baker's) Dozen" by Larry Southwick; "Kellogg Tunnel" by Fritz Wolff

11:00-11:45 Session VI, Exploring the Mining West, Mark Vendl, chair

"Reading the Ruins" by Eric Twitty; "Rails to Riches" by Eric Clements

Noon, Presidential Luncheon, Ouray Community Center

MHA Presidential Address, Don Hardesty, University of Nevada, Reno

1:30-2:45 Session VII, Mining in the Southwest, Lynn Langenfeld, chair

"John C. Greenway and the Ajo Experience" by Mason Coggin; "Mining the Periphery" by Michael Dunning; "Failure in El Dorado" by Phyllis Ludi

2:55-4:00 Session VIII, Mining Potpourri, Sally Zanjani, chair

"Colorado School of Mines" by Robert Sorgenfrei; "Silverton Trams" by Doug Thayer; "Mining the Margin" by Rich Loosbrock

Dinner on your own

Sunday June 6, 1999

8:30-4:00. Board the bus at the community center for an all day tour of the San Juans led by Duane Smith. Stops will include Red Mountain district, Mayflower mill, Old Hundred Mine.

OURAY

COLORADO

To Cascade Falls ↑

Rotary Park
Ice Rink

45
34 63

N

COMMUNITY CENTER • 325-7211
320 6th, Ave. Box 468, Ouray
Available Year Round. Excellent facility for both
public and private events of any size. Call for
reservations.

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50 39 40

62 66

To
Ridgway

Visitor's
Center
Park
R
Pool
Parking

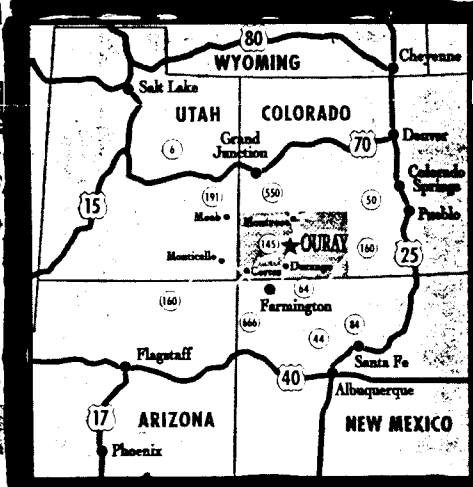
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35

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6 68



OURAY

4

6

For complete information on Lodging in Ouray
and Ridgway, see the Accommodations Guide
on pages 20-21.

LODGING - CAMPGROUNDS & R.V. PARKS

- 10 4J+1+1 Trailer Park & CampgroundE5
- Ouray KOA Kampground ..225 Hwy.23,N. of Ouray
- Ridgway State ParkRidgway

LODGING - BED & BREAKFASTS

- 13 Above Timberline B & BC4
- 14 China Clipper InnD7
- Chipeta Sun LodgeRidgway
- 16 Columbus House B & BD5
- 17 Damn Yankee Country InnE6
- 18 Evergreen B & BB8

- 19 Main Street B & BsD9
- 20 Manor B & BD9
- 21 Plain Jane Sack & Snack B & BE6
- 22 St. Elmo HotelD8
- 23 Victorian Rose B & BA6

LODGING - CONDOS, CABINS, HOMES

- 30 Alpenglow CondominiumsD8
- The Brown CabinN. of Ouray
- 32 Cabin at Eagle PointF9
- Elk River RanchRidgway
- 34 Elkhorn Log Cabin RentalsC1
- 35 Highland Resorts Mngmt.D3
- The Hill HouseN. of Ouray
- Lane CabinN. of Ouray

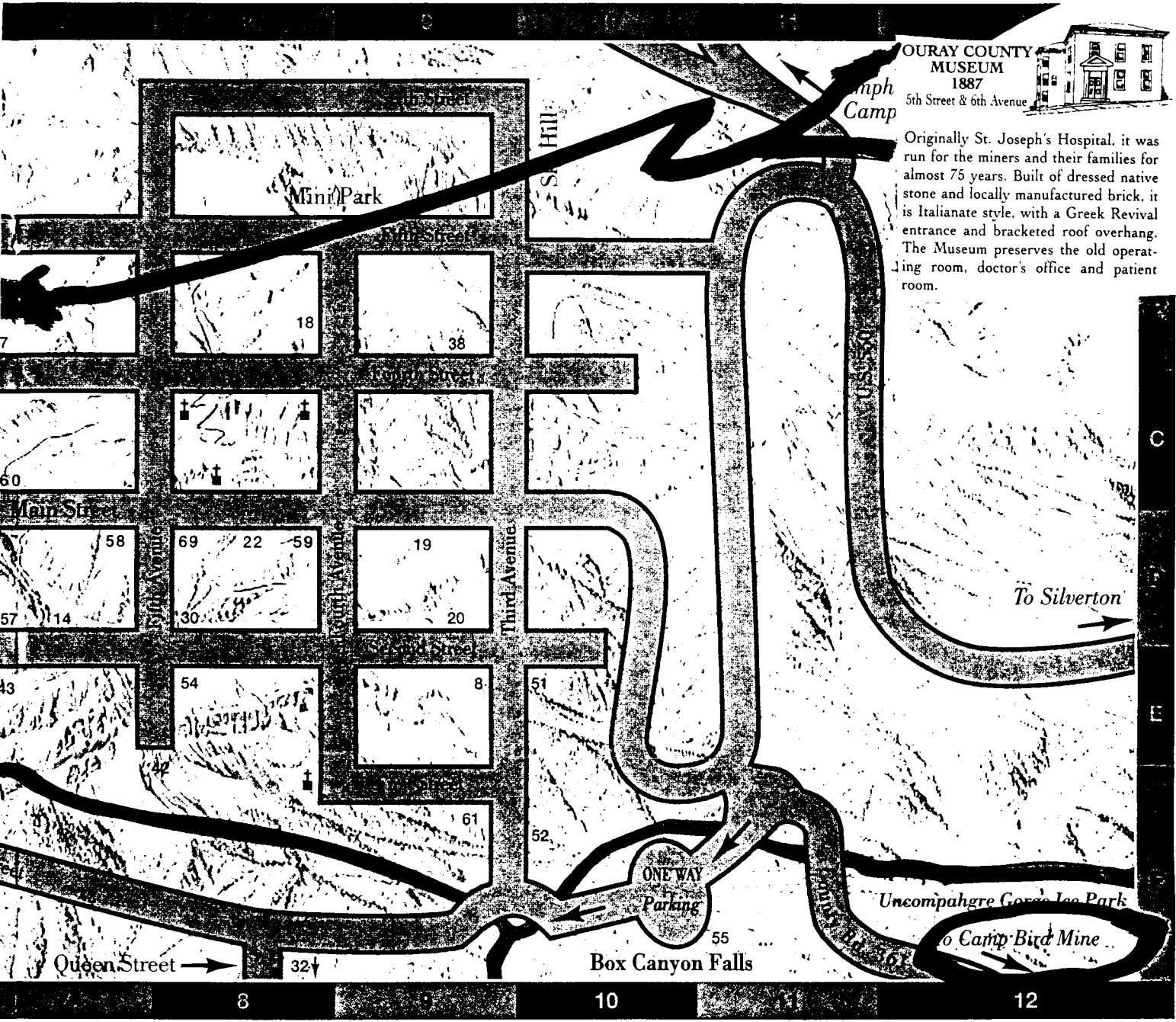
- 38 Lane's Victorian HouseB9
- 39 Lesnfsky Realty RentalsC6
- The Lewis OverlookN. of Ouray
- 40 Ouray Realty RentalsD6
- 41 Ouray River Park TownhomesD2
- 42 Ouray Victorian Inn TownhomesE8
- 43 Patti's ParlourE7
- Singer CabinN. of Ouray
- 45 The Tall Pine CottageC1
- Telluride Resort Accom.Telluride

LODGING - GUEST RANCHES

- San Juan Guest RanchRidgway

LODGING - LODGES & MOTELS

- 50 Alpine InnC6



OURAY COUNTY MUSEUM
1887
5th Street & 6th Avenue



Originally St. Joseph's Hospital, it was run for the miners and their families for almost 75 years. Built of dressed native stone and locally manufactured brick, it is Italianate style, with a Greek Revival entrance and bracketed roof overhang. The Museum preserves the old operating room, doctor's office and patient room.

- 51 Best Western Twin PeaksE10
- 52 Box Canyon Lodge & Hot SpringsF10
- 53 Circle M MotelE6
- 54 Comfort InnE8
- 55 Eagle's Nest Retreat.....E6
- 56 Historic Western HotelD5
- 57 Matterhorn MotelD7
- 58 Ouray Chalet Inn.....D7
- 59 Ouray Cottage MotelD8
- 60 Ouray HotelC7
- 61 Ouray Victorian InnF9
- 62 Polly's MotelD1
- 63 Red Mountain LodgeC1
- 64 River's Edge MotelE5

- Super-8 LodgeRidgway
 - 66 Timber Ridge Motel.....D1
 - 67 Wiesbaden Hot Springs Spa & LodgingA6
- MUSEUMS**
- 3 Ouray County Historical MuseumB6
- RECREATION**
- 55 Box Canyon FallsF11
 - 2 Ouray Hot Springs PoolD2
- SERVICES/PUBLIC BUILDINGS**
- 5 Ouray City Hall.....C6
 - 6 Post Office.....D6
 - 7 County CourthouseB7
 - 8 Medical ClinicE9

CONFERENCE/CONVENTION FACILITIES

- 4 Ouray Community CenterC6

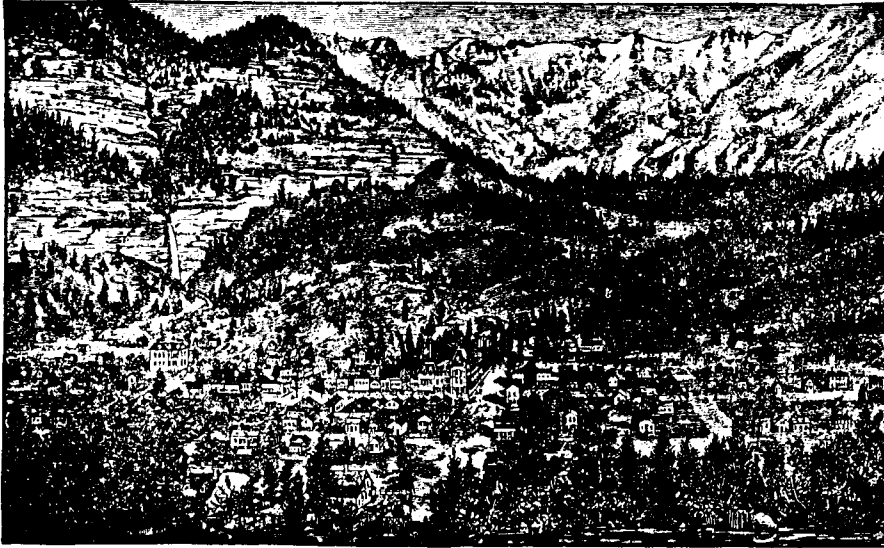
BANKS

- 68 Citizen State Bank of Ouray (ATM)D6
- 69 First National Bank (ATM)D8

CHURCHES

- ‡ St. Luke's Church (Anglican Cath.)C8
- ‡ Calvary Assembly of God ChurchE6
- ‡ First Baptist ChurchE8
- ‡ St. Daniel's Church (Catholic)B6
- ‡ St. John's Church (Episcopal)C8
- ‡ First Presbyterian ChurchC8

- R** Public RestroomC5, C6, D2



OURAY.

Mining Center. County Seat of Ouray County. Population, 3,000. Elevation, 7,640 feet.

Ouray is situated in a grand amphitheatre of mountains and can be reached by the Denver & Rio Grand Railroad from Montrose and by rail and stage from Silverton. The summits of the surrounding peaks are from three to four thousand feet higher than the town and from ten to fourteen thousand feet above tide-water. In the southwest portion of the basin, in which stands the town, and where the waters of Cañon Creek flow into those of the Uncompahgre, there are some lovely cañons and picturesque gorges; and here, in places, where the hot springs flow down over the banks into the main stream, the rocks are covered with a perfect mat of "maiden hair" and other ferns. Some of these springs contain iron and sulphur in large quantities, but what other medicated matter is not known, as they have never been analyzed. A short distance from here, up Cañon Creek, is a large cave, just how large is not known, for it has never yet been systematically explored; but there are large chambers in it and the floor and roof are covered with stalactites and stalagmites. The cave is entered from the edge of Cañon Creek and it is impossible to get into some of the chambers without ladders. The hot springs above spoken of, all of which flow into the Uncompahgre, serve to keep that river without a film of ice in the severest weather, both in town and for some distance below it; indeed, on a very cold morning in winter, a little white cloud of steam hangs over the river for more than a mile below town. On the east side of Ouray, Portland Creek flows in, and from a cleft high up in the gigantic buttress of red sandstone, which flanks the northeastern portion, Cascade Creek rushes down and shoots far out into the air, ending in a lovely veil of spray. In the northern part of the town there are more hot springs, and where they flow into the river are large beds of delicious watercress, which, owing to the warmth of the water and protection from frost by steam, remain green all through the severest winter, a luxury not to be despised at that season when "green stuff" for food is so scarce and so desirable. The Uncompahgre and its tributaries abound with speckled trout.

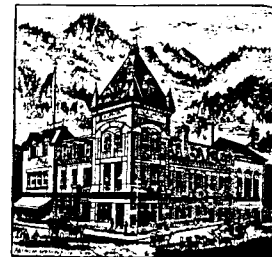
HOTELS.—The tourist will find accommodations at the newly-built and elegant Beaumont Hotel equal to those of a metropolitan city. The house was erected at an expense of \$125,000 and is supplied with electric lights and annunciators. The service is first-class in every respect and the management is of such a superior character that all who have ever been the guests of the Beaumont unite in praising it as a marvel of comfort, convenience and elegance. The tourist who stops at this hotel will thank the writer for directing his steps to this most hospitable and superior hostelry. The hotel is under the management of Mr. C. M. Nichols, a most accomplished and accommodating landlord. There are other hotels at which good accommodations can be found.



TRAIL TO A HIGH MINE IN THE SIERRA SAN JUAN.

THE BEAUMONT
C. M. NICHOLS, MANAGER.

Rates
\$3 to \$4
per Day
In the Heart
of the
Richest
Mining
District
of
Colorado.



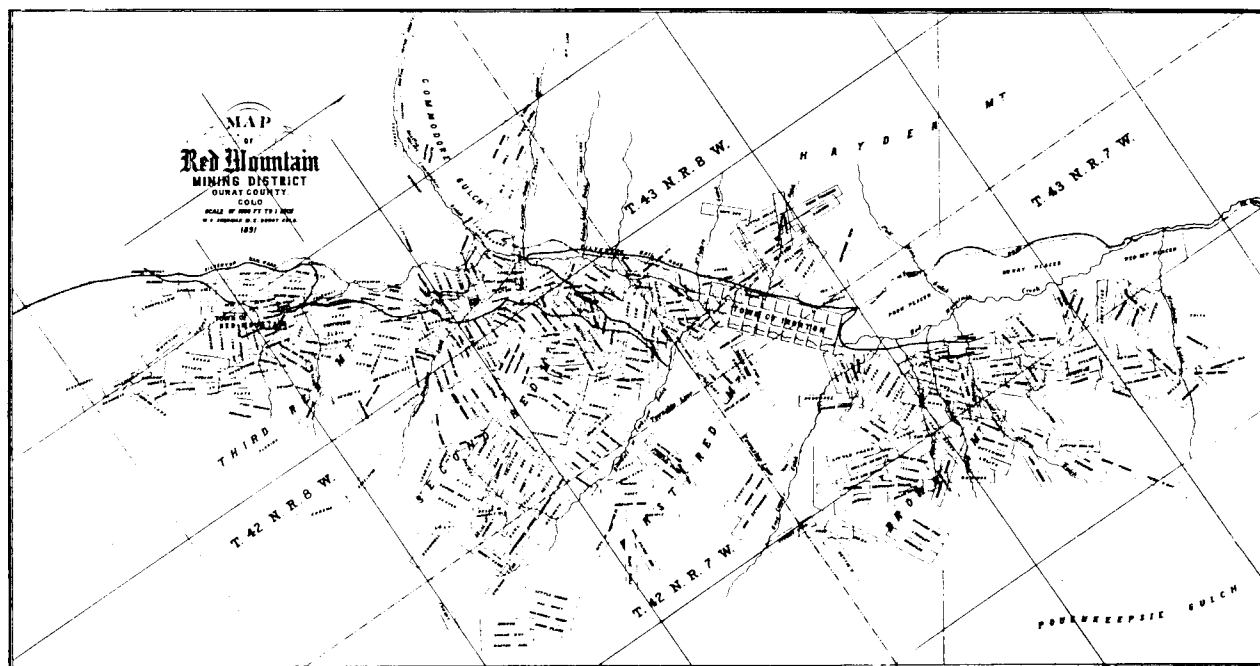
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The most Picturesquely situated Hotel in the State of Colorado. Superior First-Class. Electric Bell and Lights. Heated by Steam. Hot and Cold Water. Natural Hot Mineral Water for Baths flowing in the Home. For Rates apply to
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TOURISTS' HAND-BOOK

DESCRIPTIVE OF

COLORADO, NEW MEXICO & UTAH



Tours

Tom Rosemeyer will lead the group on a Friday morning tour of the famed Camp Bird mine. The tour will begin at the Ouray Community Center at 8:30 then participants will drive their own vehicles or ride with a friend to the mine. Tom will give a brief presentation about the operation, past and present.

On Sunday, Duane Smith will lead an all day tour of some of the spectacular San Juan mining country. The tour bus will load at the community center at 8:30 (all participants need to pre-register for this tour -- room is limited). We will stop first at the Red Mountain district, a rich silver mining region. Then its over the 11,000 foot Red Mountain Pass to Silverton, following the abandoned narrow gauge line down the mountain into Baker's Park.

Northeast of Silverton, the bus will stop at the Old Hundred mine where Duane will lead an underground tour of the workings. A tour of the nearby Mayflower mill is also included. The Mayflower is a flotation mill recently accepted by the Silverton Historical Society for preservation. The Sunday group will have lunch provided. Expect to return to Ouray by 5 p.m.

Book Notes

John Marshall sent a copy of his and Zeke Zanoni's well illustrated *Mining the Hard Rock in the Silverton San Juans*. The 200 page book is a compilation of 400 illustrations, oral histories and reminiscences, and snippets of information about the mines, men and women of the San Juan mountains, especially near Silverton. The period covered is primarily the post war years, with much on earlier mining eras. The wealth of photographs, drawings and other graphics are phenomenal. Copies are \$34.95 plus \$5.05 for shipping and handling from the Simpler Way Book Company, P. O. Box 556, Silverton, CO 81433 or call 970-387-5376.

The Denver office of the National Park Service has published *Frothers, Bubbles and Flotation, A Survey of Flotation Milling in the Twentieth-Century Metals Industry*. The book, by Dawn Bunyak, reviews the history of the process and a survey of extant mills, including a case study of the Mayflower mill near Silverton. A limited number of copies are available gratis by writing Dawn Bunyak, NPS, Cultural Resource, Intermountain, P. O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287.

As mentioned in the last issue, conference participants may wish to read Duane Smith's *Song of the Hammer and Drill, The Colorado San Juans 1860-1914* (Golden: Colorado School of Mines, 1982) for an overview; on Ouray, see P. David Smith's 96 page *Ouray, A Quick History* (Fort Collins: Firstlight, 1996); two others in the Firstlight series is Duane Smith's *Silverton, A Quick History* and his *Durango & Silverton Railroad*. P. David Smith has published *Red Mountain*, a history of the silver boom at the Red Mountain district.

On the Camp Bird see Evalyn Walsh McLean, *Father Struck it Rich* (Fort Collins, CO: Firstlight Pub). She was the daughter of bonanza king Tom Walsh and gives a personal view of their rags to riches story. A quick history is J. L. Benham's *Camp Bird and the Revenue* (Ouray, CO: Black Bear Publishing, 1980). Another classic personal view of life at an area gold mine is Harriet Fish Backus' often reprinted *Tomboy Bride* (Boulder: Pruett, 1969). For a solid biography of one of the bonanza king's see Lee Scamehorn, *Albert Eugene Reynolds, Colorado's Mining King* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995). Reynolds owned the Revenue.

Year of Mining Site Historic Preservation

Don't forget to Send us your lists. MHA president Don Hardesty has dedicated 1999 as the Year of Mining & Historic Preservation and we are compiling a list of threatened sites important to the history of American Mining. We have heard from a number of MHAers -- about threats to a historic mine in Minnesota, of a fire damaged New Mexico camp, and of new development in a third in Colorado. If you wish to nominate a property please send a brief description of the property's history or significance, and a synopsis of the threat, and a snapshot of the site. Please mail your nomination by June 1 to the MHA at P. O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215. A committee will review the proposals at the MHA conference in Ouray. So, please, get your suggestion in.

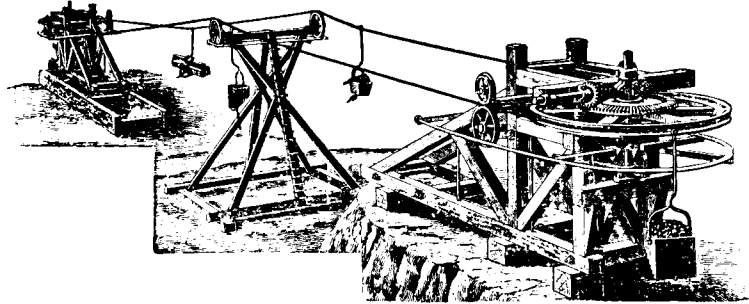


FIG. 117.--A Single-rope Aerial Tramway.

Visiting Leadville?

Our friends at the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in Leadville invite participants headed for the MHA conference to drop by. They hosted our 1991 conference and have been a friend to the MHA all along. The museum has expanded, has had a face lift, and has new displays as well as a great gift shop.

Don't Forget WMM&I

If passing through Colorado Springs on your way to Ouray, stop at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry, off I-25 north of town. The museum has operating machinery worth the lay over. MHA officer Eric Clements coordinates education programs at the museum and is always interested in hearing from fellow MHAers.

Mining History Association
Post Office Box 150300
Denver, Colorado 80215

