Tonopah Centennial

Welcome to the centennial year of the silver strike at Tonopah, Nevada. The organizers for the MHA June 1-4 conference have the program and venue set. See the following pages for details.

The Tonopah-Goldfield area has spawned legends, plus some pretty good stories. For your winter reading see the following: former MHA president Sally Zanjani’s *Goldfield, the Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier* (Athens, Ohio: Swallow Press, 1992) is a great introduction; Robert D. McCracken, *A History of Tonopah, Nevada* (Tonopah: Nye County Press, 1990) is a broad overview of the area from prehistoric to present, with much on the boom; the late Russ Elliott, also a former MHA president, wrote the classic contextual history, *Nevada’s Twentieth-Century Mining Boom, Tonopah-Goldfield-Ely* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1966, reprinted).


Mark Vendl reports that the silver San Juans -- site of last summer’s MHA conference in Ouray -- are seeing much activity in preservation these days. Last fall the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Historical Society, and the San Juan County Historical Society completed a joint effort to stabilize the 1905 Old Hundred Boarding House perched in the mountains above Silverton. The collapsed roof was rebuilt, walls and foundations repaired, and artifacts saved from further deterioration. In Ouray, the firm of Klinke & Lew have underway plans to preserve the stately Beaumont Hotel. A three year, multi-million dollar effort will begin with new techniques for restoring the crumbling stone structure.

The Red Mountain Project Task Force that gave MHAers a tour of one of their sites last summer has a new web site. The Red Mountain Project Task Force gave MHAers a tour of one of their sites last summer has a new web site. A three year, multi-million dollar effort will begin with new techniques for restoring the crumbling stone structure.

Homer Milford, outspoken preservationist of the Spanish mining frontier, sent word that the Cerrillos Park Coalition has been successful in acquiring land in the Cerrillos Hills, New Mexico, site of prehistoric and Spanish colonial period as well as nineteenth-century American mining. See web site: www.cerrilloshills.com

International Events

MHA treasurer Jay Fell just returned from Greece. No, he has not absconded with the funds, but went as program chair for the Fifth International Mining History Congress to be held in Milos, Greece, September 12-17, 2000. He reports the island is stunning and the conference facilities top notch. Registration materials can be found on the Web page for the conference: www.heliotopos.net, or write Terpsihoris 38, 175 62 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece.

The Fifth International Symposium on Mining Cultural Heritage will be held July 24-28, 2000 at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden. The event brings together people interested in the preservation, indexing, retrieval, and use of library collections, artifacts, and archives. See their internet page: space@mines.edu

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President’s Page

As I assume the role of president of the Mining History Association I am keenly aware of the able leadership that has preceded me as well as of the wisdom and vision of the many of you that brought the MHA to where it is at present. There can be little doubt that both the individual and the collective efforts of the members of this group have made a number of significant contributions toward the goals of the MHA. I would like, however, to touch on the importance of outgoing president Don Hardesty’s call to look at how the MHA might continue its important work by expanding globally. To be certain, there is much that remains to be done within the U.S. Each of us could easily name a number of sites threatened by indifference, development, or a misguided zeal for environmental remediation. Yet we must not lose site of the mission we have set.

Many of us travel outside the “first world” on pleasure or business. I would suspect that given our interest, more than a few of us visit mining areas during some of these trips. Additionally, I would suggest that most if not all of the historic mining sites visited during these trips have been totally stripped of everything that can be carried away if not to the foundations. It is, of course, the pressures of poverty, often abject poverty, which causes this. Much of the material removed is sold for very modest amounts while the rest is used for shelter or fuel. There are, however, still a number of operating plants in these countries that have changed little in the past half-century or, in some cases, more.

It is these sites that may well deserve our attention. These mines and associated recovery plants can give us a window into the past. Here is an opportunity to record the mining and processing techniques that are no longer found in the developed countries. Once recorded, the videos, film and sound recordings, or other documentation can be made available as interpretive aids. An oral history of a miner or mill hand could be significantly enhanced through a visual or audio aid. Also, preserved sites with no such records on their own might well benefit from the use of such complimentary records.

Additionally, many less developed countries are beginning to have a sense of the value of their industrial legacy, but have little understanding of what might be historically significant. Here too we can play an important role.

By publishing information on these operations and advising owners of these facilities as well as governments of their significance from a mining history perspective, we might just save a few. After all, few other NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), seeking preservation of what they view as important, hesitate to take such steps.

Richard Graeme
Accra, Ghana

Organization Notes

The Year 2000 MHA officers are:

Richard Graeme, President
Richard Francaviglia, Vice-Pres.
Jay Fell, Treasurer
Bob Spude, Secretary
Council members:
Don Hardesty, past president
Roger Burt, 1998-2000
Eric Clements, 1998-2000
Liston Leyendecker, 1999-2001
Charles Hughes, 1999-2001
Erik Nordberg, 1999-2001
Homer Milford, 2000-2002
Glenn Cook, 2000-2002

Welcome New Membership Chair
Bob Sorgenfrei, archivist of the Russell L. & Lyn Wood Mining History Archive, Colorado School of Mines, Golden is our new membership chair. He will work with the officers and MHA’s Denver coordinator Lysa Wegman-French to keep things running. Thanks for volunteering Bob.

Dues and Membership Survey

On the back of the dues notice, enclosed with this newsletter, board member Eric Clements developed a membership survey. We are interested in your desires for future conferences, materials to be show-cased in the newsletter, etc. Eric will consolidate the information for a subsequent issue of Mining History News.

Future Conferences

For those members who wish to plan ahead the following are future conference locales:
2000: Tonopah, Nevada
2001: Butte, Montana
2002: Kellogg-Wallace, Idaho

Tours

Atalaya Tours, Ltd sent their latest list of Mining Tours 2000. They will again visit Rio Tinto and Southern Spain, Mexico, Western Britain, Germany and more. A special tour to Greece, September 17-24, will coincide with the International Mining Congress. For more information on these and other tours write them at Ceinionfa, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HR, UK or e-mail atalayajt@aol.com. Web page: www.atalaya.co.uk

Mining History Association web page:
http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm
Erik Nordberg, webmaster, e-mail at copper@mtu.edu

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.
Museum Notes

The Minnesota Museum of Mining in Chisholm has had a number of improvements. The museum interprets the rich history of the Mesabi Iron Range, especially the technology of open pit mining. But the museum has now added a railroad diorama and a mock-up of an underground mine. There are summer tours of nearby mine sites as well as other museums in the region. For more information write them at Box 271, Chisholm, MN 55719. Or at: www.chisholmmnchamber.com/mom3.htm Thanks to MHA member R. D. Learmont for the notice. This out of the way site is well worth the trip if you’re headed to the North country.

The Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, one the featured sites in our MHA 2000 conference, continues to publish an excellent newsletter/history journal highlighting the region’s past. The museum also operates the outdoor Mining Park, which continues to increase the number of mining equipment displays, miners homes, and its collection of “early central Nevada outhouses.” Plus burro races. For more information write them at P. O. Box 326, Tonopah, NV 89049 or call 702-482-9676.

The Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Colorado Springs received an electric locomotive from the Henderson Mine for its permanent exhibits. The 96,000 pound 42-inch gauge engine joins the museum’s long list of quality exhibits, many of which have been restored to operate.

Our friends at Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, New Jersey dedicated their new Thomas S. Warren Museum of Fluorescence. A state of the art exhibit facility was built to house this glowing display. For a free brochure write them at 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439-1126.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Leadville, Colorado continues to expand. The old east wing of the former school complex is now in the planning stages of renovation as an interactive historic mining theme exhibit. The museum sold two of the claims it owned in the Georgetown district in order to initiate the work. Additional donations are being accepted to re-use the 15,000 square feet of space. Write them at P. O. Box 981, Leadville, CO 80461-0981.

The Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, Arizona is in the gestation phase of a new mining history exhibit and mineral display in the upstairs of the former Phelps Dodge Headquarters building, now museum. The display will include over a century of minerals, some as large as a ton collected over the past century. The museum continues to be a splendid small town, former mining camp history showcase.

That Old Stock Certificate

The MHA occasionally gets requests from readers about the face value of old stock certificates. Unfortunately, all the stock mentioned to date is of the highly speculative, early twentieth century era. Information about the companies can most easily be obtained from the specific Secretary of State where the company was incorporated. The Secretary of States keep or can direct the researcher to the keeper of the defunct corporations files. Also, if near a sizeable library or, preferably, a School of Mines, the researcher can go and review the corporate listing in the annual Mines Handbook or its various evolutions. The early editors were most direct in their criticisms of frauds or over-speculative ventures. Rare is the lost fortune in stock. However, for example, if you’re lucky enough to have old Arizona Copper Company, Ltd. stock, which was acquired by Phelps Dodge, you’d be rich, and probably Scottish since that’s where most shareholders lived.

Preservation Notes

Help needed. Kathy Huppe of the Bureau of Land Management’s Utah office is gathering information as part of her archeological duties on the uranium mines of southeastern Utah, specifically the Cottonwood and Elk Ridge districts. She is looking for comparable surveys and any guidance on evaluating such sites. If you have historical information or guidance to share, contact her at: 435-587-1537.

The Colorado Coalfield War Archeological Project will continue its work at the site of the Ludlow Massacre. Mark Walker of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Denver will conduct a field school at the site. He is seeking volunteers to assist with the project. Their web page is: du.edu/~markwalk/fieldschool.html

The former ASARCO smelter site at Murray, Utah is slated to become the center for a commercial/entertainment complex. Plans to preserve the landmark smokestack are underway, but the developer, as usual, wants the location cleared for easier development.

Ghost Towns in Ohio? The Center for Ghost Town Research is compiling information on the one-time villages, coal camps, etc. of the Buckeye state. They already have tracked 8,000. If you have information to share or wish to contact them write P. O. Box 616, Sunbury, OH 43074.

Australian MHA

Mel Davies sent the recent Australian Mining History Association newsletter with its list of events, book notes, and report on the conference held at the Hobart goldfields. The September 2000 conference will be in Adelaide. E:mail Mel for more at: mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au
Preservation Notes

Shakespeare Ghost Town, Inc., near Lordsburg, New Mexico has been selected by the White House Millennium Council initiative as a "Save America's Treasures" institutional member. Unfortunately, the designation does not carry any funds and the owners are still trying to raise $295,000 to rebuild the General Merchandise building damaged by fire several years ago. The owners are slowly raising funds by selling $25 adobe bricks to be used in the structure. For information about tours or the opportunity to pitch in and help write Shakespeare Ghost Town, P. O. Box 253, Lordsburg, NM 88045.

The Bureau of Land Management, Dillon Field Office, Montana deserves a tip of the hat. Through cooperative efforts the office has stabilized the ruins of the 1866 Christenot Mill and Union City, near Virginia City. Private citizen Nick Shrauger, a Christenot family descendant, and archaeologist Mark Sant led the effort by researching the area's history and by helping in the two years' structural work.

The Montana Historic Preservation Commission has received a $1 million dollar Federal grant to add to the funds from the State of Montana in the effort to restore the buildings of one of the best preserved Rocky Mountain gold rush era camps, the former territorial capital of Virginia City, Montana. The commission will hire work crews this summer and begin the work in earnest.

Eugene Michael writes of the need to preserve the Monitor-Belmont mill ruins at Belmont, Nevada. The site contains multiple examples of silver milling and metallurgy -- evidence of the patio process, of a stamp mill-rotary roasting furnace, of a Stetefeldt shaft furnace, and of a settling-separation plant. Michael will present a talk about metallurgist Charles Stetefeldt and recommends the Sunday tour to Belmont.

Oral History

Lee Svent sent the latest list from the "Western Mining in the Twentieth Century Oral History Series" at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. During 1999 the office completed vol six of the oral interviews about the McLaughlin Mine in northern California; with J. Robert Clarkson and his machine company, especially reagent feeders; and David Lowell on work in copper and gold in Arizona, Chile and Peru. A long list of interviews are in progress as well. The office has made the additional effort to compile the oral histories into bound volumes or microfilm. For example, the Clarkson interviews are available for $79 plus $4 shipping. For more information on the program write Regional Oral History Office, 486, Bancroft Library, UC, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000.

Book Notes

The Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology in association with the University of Nevada Press has reprinted Grant H. Smith's classic The History of the Comstock Lode, 1850-1920. Otis Young wrote in Western Mining: "Smith's scholarly investigation of the Comstock Lode sets right many of the errors perpetrated by Lord, Shinn, and Wright." We agree and are glad to see the volume back in print, and doubly pleased to see the additional material by Joseph V. Tingley, who adds six chapters covering the twentieth century up to 1997. $16.95 from the press, Mail Stop 166, Reno, NV 89557-0076.

Most histories of the California gold rush end with a mention of the subsequent rushes, especially the 1858 rush to the Fraser River of New Caledonia, soon to be British Columbia. In Fraser Gold 1858!The Founding of British Columbia, Netta Sterne writes, surprisingly, the first book-length history of the movement of peoples north. An estimate of up to 40,000 gold seekers arrived in what was once the domain of the Hudson Bay Company. The gold diggers not only created a new society in the North, they also helped found British Columbia, the author's sub-theme. Although admittedly not a historian -- and the use of long quotes shows this -- the author has provided a solid study. Not since William Trimble's 1909 Mining Advance into the Inland Empire has the Fraser River rush been detailed so well. Available from Washington State University Press, P. O. Box 645910, Pullman, Washington.

Alan H. Patera's latest in his "Western Places" series is about the Goodsprings, Nevada and the Towns of the Yellow Pine Mining District. The 44 page, large format history looks at the mines and miners, social life -- red lights and religion -- and the half dozen short-lived camps in this productive lead-zinc district south of Las Vegas. The booklet includes 38 photographs, maps, directory of mines, and a list of people that lived in the area and were well-known enough to at least be mentioned in the local newspaper. Available to subscribers at $25 from Western Places, Box 2093, Lake Grove, OR 97035.

Just in time for the MHA's Tonopah conference, Shawn Hall has updated his Preserving the Glory Days, Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Nye County, Nevada (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1999). The 301 page guide book leads the reader to 195 sites, all worthy of at least a paragraph description (Tonopah gets eight pages). Though we have not field tested the directions to each site -- we'll do that next summer -- the histories appear appropriate, the reader knows what to find or not to find when they get there, and the photographs, historic and present, make up a volume worthy to be placed on the shelf or in the glove box, though it's a tight fit, of any ghost town chaser. $21.95 from the press. A duplicate volume by Hall on Elko County, Old Heart of Nevada, is also available.
Eleventh Annual Conference – Mining History Association, Tonopah, Nevada

THURSDAY, JUNE 1
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration, Tonopah Convention Center
5 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception, Tonopah Mining Park

FRIDAY, JUNE 2
11:50-6:00  MHA Journal editorial board breakfast meeting
9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Session 1: Mining in Central Nevada. Chair: Don Hardesty, Joseph Mingley, Thomas Lugaski, and Alvin McLane. “History of Discovery of Mining Camps in South Central Nevada.”
2:00-4:00  Centennial Lunch. Speaker, Director of Nevada Archives Guy Rocha. “Working in the Mines: Organized Labor in Nevada’s Mining Industry, 1863-1924.”
4:15 p.m. Walking tour of Goldfield and Goldfield mining sites
7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet, Tonopah Convention Center. Richard Graeme, President.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3
8:00 a.m.-Noon  Registration, Tonopah Convention Center
9:50-10:00 a.m. Break
10:00-11:10 a.m. Session 5: Global Perspectives on Mining. Chair: Roger Burt, Rebecca Woodward Wendelken. “E. Nelson Fell: An American Mining Engineer in the Kazak Steppe, 1903-1908.”
12:00-1:15 p.m. Presidential Lunch, Tonopah Convention Center. Richard Graeme, Presidential Address.
3:00-3:10 p.m. Break
4:15-5:30 p.m. MHA Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. Evening Speaker: Author Stan Paher, “Nevada mining camps”

SUNDAY, JUNE 4
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon  Bus Tour of Round Mountain Gold Mine and Belmont QR Drive your own 4WD vehicle tour of ghost towns with Stan Paher. Both tours will meet at Belmont, where a box lunch is available. (No other food can be found in Belmont, unless you drink lunch.)
Would You Enjoy a Trip to Hell?

Probably you would not. At least we will suppose so. Even if you would enjoy it there is no hurry about starting. If you are going you will do so sometime without having to plan ahead of time.

You Might Enjoy a Trip to Death Valley, Now!

It has all the advantages of hell without the inconveniences. It is a wonderful country with all the weird mysticism of Dante's Inferno, marvelous scenery, strange romanticism, fantastic wealth and absolute novelty. If you would enjoy a change from ordinary city life and fashionable summer resort outings you would find it here. You would see and learn of things of which you have never dreamed. An automobile trip through hell would certainly be a novelty. Such an excursion through Death Valley would be no less wonderful and much more comfortable. You may have this. If you are interested write to

The Mining Advertising Agency, Greenwater, Cal.

Travel Information

For conference attendees arriving by plane: Tonopah is 206 miles northwest of Las Vegas on highway 95; it is 237 miles southeast of Reno, taking highway 80 to Fernley, highway 50 to Fallon, and highway 95 from there. Those traveling from Las Vegas may stop to see Rhyolite, a striking ghost town near Beatty. Conference attendees arriving from Reno may want to see the Churchill County Museum in Fallon, the Mineral County Museum in Hawthorne, and/or may take a detour on highway 360 to the site of Belleville, once a mining town but now foundations only with a roadside marker.

Weather Information

Please be aware that early June weather in Tonopah is unpredictable, changes rapidly, and varies from hot and dry to cold and wet, even to snow. Dress accordingly.

Lodging Information

Best Western Hi Desert Inn (telephone 775.482.3511)
Clown Motel (telephone 775.482.5920)
Golden Hills Motel (telephone 775.482.6238)
Jim Butler Motel (telephone 775.482.3577)
Mizpah Hotel (telephone 775.482.6202)
OK Corral Inn (telephone 775.482.8202)
Silver Queen Motel (telephone 775.482.6291)
Sundowner Motel (telephone 775.482.6224)
Tonopah Motel (telephone 775.482.3987)
Tonopah Station House (telephone 775.482.9777)

Advertisement from Death Valley Chuck-Walla April 1, 1907
Eleventh Annual Conference – Mining History Association

June 1-4, 2000
Tonopah, Nevada

MHA members are urged to register early to ensure attendance at all desired events. The Round Mountain bus tour can accommodate only 48. There is no charge for Paher’s tour, but a $10.00 box lunch can be supplied in Belmont when both tours meet at noon.

Conference Attendee Information

Name ____________________________________________
Spouse __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________

Daytime Phone or e:mail __________________________

Conference Event/Fees

Conference Registration (no charge for spouse) $30 per person
Centennial Lunch (Friday) $15 per person
Awards Banquet (Friday) $20 per person
Presidential Lunch (Saturday) $15 per person
Sunday Tours:
  Round Mountain bus tour and box lunch $15.00 per person
  in Belmont
  Box lunch for Paher tour $10.00 per person

Total

Please mail pre-registration form and check made payable to the Mining History Association to:
Mining History Association,
P.O. Box 150300
Denver CO 80215
Book Notes

A memento of the Fourth International Mining History Congress held in Guanajuato 1998 was the *New Laws of the Mines of Spain: 1625 Edition of Juan de Onate*, translated and ed. by Homer E. Milford, Richard Flint, Shirley Cushing Flint, and Geraldine Vigil. The slim volume is a translation of the first mining laws to be used in what would become the American West. The introduction in English and Spanish by Homer Milford provides a brief history of Spanish colonial mining law. Also included is Juan de Onate’s "Treatise on Metallurgy." The book, a modern Spanish translation of the original text, is now available from the Sunstone Press, P. O. Box 2321, Santa Fe, NM 87505 for $8.95 plus $3.50 postage and handling. Or you can call their 800 number: 1-800-243-5644.

The Mining Foundation of the Southwest has published Volume III of the *History of Mining in Arizona*, edited by J. Michael Canty, H. Mason Coggin, and Michael N. Greeley. The large format volume includes chapters about copper mines or smelting at Ajo, SASCO, Bisbee (Calumet & Arizona), and Globe (Old Dominion), gold at King of Arizona, the Depression era automobile gold rush, aerial tramways, Arizona silver milling from Tubac to Tombstone, hydraulic mining in Arizona, and the Kentucky Camp in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson. The book also includes an index to all three volumes. Copies of all three histories are available for $35 each or $95 for all of them from the Mining Foundation of the Southwest, P. O. Box 42317, Tucson, AZ 85733, phone 520-577-7519, FAX 520-577-7073, or e:mail mfsw@dakotacom.net

Roger Burt writes from chilly Exeter, Devon that the British have initiated publishing mining history on the net. Its inexpensive and a quick way to share research, and get feedback. To see a recent history of Scottish lead mining he suggests clicking on Mining History Net (www.ex.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet); look up "Other Web Sites" and click on Scottish lead mining.

Mason Coggin sent notice of their latest publication, a 384 page tome titled *The Lost Dutchman Mine of Jacob Waltz* by Thomas Glover. Here is the largest compilation of legend and lore, plus the basic facts of how the myth began. The characters who followed the call are also highlighted. For copies send $19.95 plus $3.50 for shipping to Cowboy Miner Productions, 317 E. Griswold Rd., Phoenix, Arizona 85020 or call 602-944-3763.