

MINING HISTORY NEWS

Volume 11 · May 2000 · Number 2

Tonopah Centennial

This June Mining History Association members will have their first -- and possibly their only -- opportunity to convene at the centennial of a major mining rush. Tonopah is celebrating the date one hundred years ago when Jim Butler took some samples of silver ore at this desert site. Three months later, after Jim's wife Belle finally got her procrastinating husband into motion, the couple staked their claims. Belle, a prospector in her own right, found the richest one, the Mizpah.

Since the decline of the Comstock twenty years earlier, Nevada had slid ever deeper into depression and depopulation. This new discovery ignited a mining boom that turned her rags to riches. Goldfield, Manhattan, and many other excitements followed. The population of the state doubled within a decade.

Although much has been lost, many remnants of the glory days remain for us to see, preserved at the Tonopah Mining Park and the Central Nevada Museum. Central Nevada Historical Society president Bill Metscher will lead a walking tour of Goldfield and show us sites such as the jail, the bottle house, and the Goldfield Hotel, as well as the locations of such bygone attractions as "Hop Fiends' Gulch" and the notorious red light district. Lane Griffen will point out famous mining sites in the Golden Horseshoe.

Back in Tonopah on Saturday, Stan Paher will treat us to a slide show on old

mining camps in the region and lead us to some of them on his Sunday tour.

Those lacking four wheel drive vehicles will have an opportunity to join the bus tour of the Round Mountain gold mine. Sunday tours will meet in the old mining camp of Belmont to enjoy a box lunch and view the old mill, the courthouse where frontiersman Jack Longstreet stood trial and Charles Manson scrawled his name, and the crumbling Cosmopolitan Saloon.

Of course, as always, the heart of the conference will be the sessions, packed with a rich variety of speakers on mining topics from central Nevada and nearby Death Valley to distant Kazakhstan. You'll hear from famous names like David Myrick and future famous names. You'll see a film on Death Valley mule teams and get the lowdown on mining scams. Don't miss what promises to be a great meeting in Tonopah.

Quick Reads

In response to a request for a book to quickly read about Tonopah, we offer the following: for a 15 minute read see Stan Paher's large format, illustrated pamphlet *Tonopah, Silver Camp of Nevada* (Nevada Publications); for an hour or so read see Robert McCracken's 75 page paperback *Tonopah, the Greatest, the Richest, and the Best Mining Camp in the World* (Tonopah: Nye County Press, 1990); and for reading on that long flight see Russell R. Elliott, *Nevada's Twentieth Century Mining Boom* (University of NV Press).

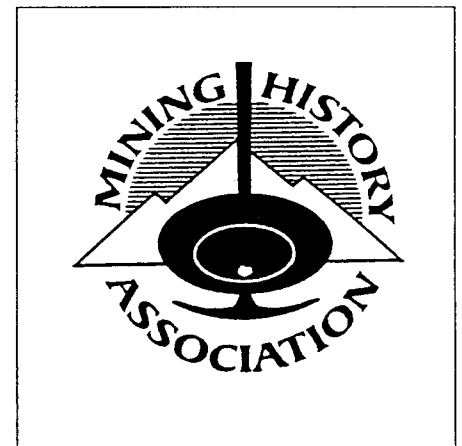
Jim Butler Days

Every Memorial Day weekend, the citizens of Tonopah celebrate Jim Butler Days, a noisy festival that brings crowds to the one-time boom town. This year's celebration is May 27-9, the weekend before the annual Mining History Association conference. MHAers planning to tour Nevada prior to the conference may want to visit Tonopah early, at least to see the burro races.

For more information contact the Tonopah Chamber of Commerce at 702-482-3558 or e:mail them at tonopahhc@sierra.net

Fifth International

Reminder: The Fifth International Mining History Conference will be held in Milos, Greece, September 12-17, 2000. See their web page at www.heliotopos.net



President's Page

With the MHA annual meeting approaching, some may well be questioning the value of attending. After all, what difference will attending make to others or me? Possibly a great deal, is the answer.

All of us in the Mining History Association recognize that this group has truly made a difference in preserving portions of our mining legacy that might well have been otherwise lost. In a few instances, it is a simple matter to trace the path from concept to action to preservation through an individual or a small group of individuals. However I would suggest that the majority of the good works completed by MHA members as well as those projects underway have a more obscure genesis. Where did the idea for a paper, book or project come from?

Obviously, there are a number of ways for us to become aware of a site that is threatened and in need of protection or of a significant bit of history that cries for recordation in a paper or perhaps even in a book. But, of the ways to learn of those things that are in need of preservation in form or on paper, nothing beats the word of mouth.

As we are all aware, when groups of like-minded individuals get together the stories flow ever so freely. It is through these informal discussions that many of the important ideas for preservation are conceived. Often a simple remark by an individual concerning something they know of or about someone that participated in an event can start the creative juices flowing in another person. The annual meetings of MHA are, of course, the ideal forums for the type of discussions that can and will foster ideas for new projects. There can be little doubt that something new for meeting the stated goals of this group will emerge as result of the gathering at Tonapah.

But unless you attend, the contribution you might make toward the inspiration of others or the chance to be inspired may well be lost. We are a group for the very

reason that collectively we will accomplish more than we could individually and no small part of the process is the free, open sharing of ideas and concepts.

So, come to Tonapah with the goal of bringing your unique knowledge to share with all as well as to listen and receive. Who can say what will be saved or written about just because you attended. See you there!

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

Membership

Bob Sorgenfrei, archivist of the Russell L. & Lyn Wood Mining History Archive, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, and MHA membership chair is updating the mailing list. If you find errors -- misspellings, unnecessary words, etc -- please drop a note to the MHA, P. O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215. He will work MHA's Denver coordinator Lysa Wegman-French to prepare a clean mailing list.

Mining History Journal

The 1999 *Journal* is in the hands of managing editor Charles Hughes and ready for the printer. Expect the MHA's biggest issue yet to appear during the Tonapah conference.

Future Conferences

For those members who wish to plan ahead the following are future conference locales:

June 1-5, 2000: Tonopah, Nevada
2001: Butte, Montana
2002: Kellogg-Wallace, Idaho

Mining History Association web page:

<http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm>
For submissions contact MHA webmaster Erik Nordberg by e:mail at copper@mtu.edu

Thanks

Anyone who puts together an MHA conference deserves the thanks of everyone who participates. This year's conference in Tonopah has benefitted from the guidance of both Don Hardesty and Sally Zanjani for taking on the task of organizing all those local details, tours, meals, meeting space, etc. The host community also is critical in giving support through its mining history enthusiasts, in this case the Central Nevada Historic Society and Tonopah Historic Mining Park. Thanks too to Don Hardesty for taking on the additional role of program chair. Thanks to all for their hard work.

**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.

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

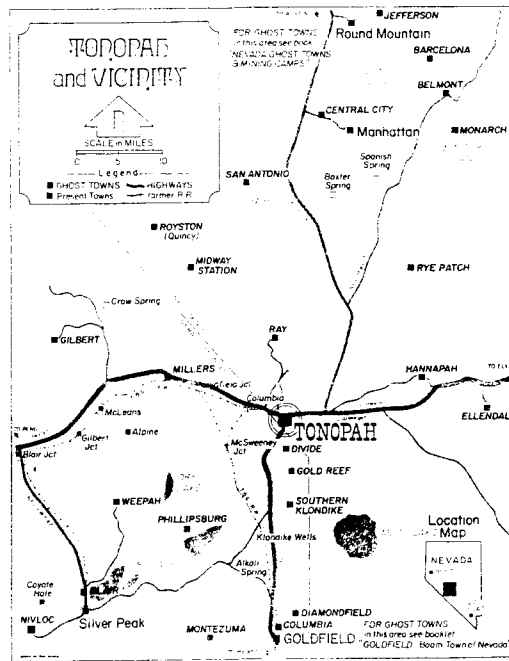
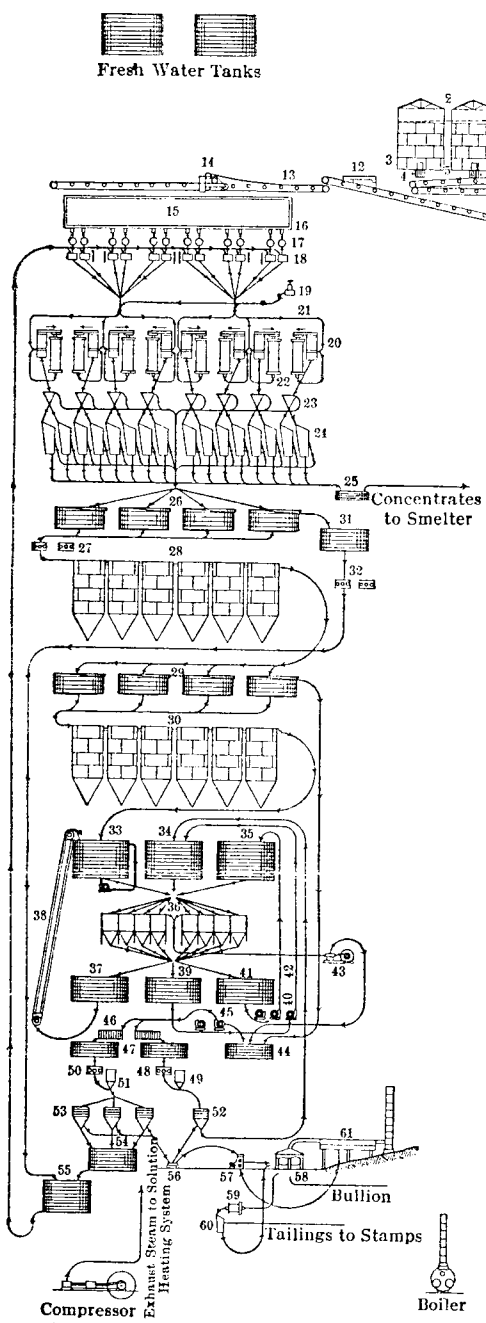
7:15-8:00 MHA Journal editorial board breakfast meeting
 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration, Tonopah Convention Center
 8:30-9:50 am Session 1: Mining in Central Nevada. Chair: Don Hardesty. Joseph Tingley, Thomas Lugaski, and Alvin McLane, "History of Discovery of Mining Camps in South Central Nevada;" David Myrick, "Railroads in Tonopah and Goldfield;" Eugene Michal, "Charles A. Stetefeldt, Pioneer Silver Metallurgist;" Sally Zanjani, "The Political Impact of the Central Nevada Mining Boom."
 9:50-10:00 a.m. Break
 10:00-11:00 am Session 2: Mining in the Death Valley Region. Chair: Sally Zanjani Emmett C. Harder, "The Last of the Death Valley Prospectors," Ted Faye, "Of Myths and Men: Separating Fact from Fiction in the Twenty Mule Team Story;" Edward Leo Lyman, "When the Mormons Invested in a Southern Nevada Gold Mine."
 11:00-11:10 am Break
 11:10-11:50 Session 3: Mining Landscapes in California. Chair: Richard V. Francaviglia. Andrew Johnston, "Space and Power in the Landscape of the New Quicksilver Almaden Mine;" George A. Wheelton, "Sierra Nevada Foothills: Residential Land Development and Historic Mine Activity-Compatibility or a Time Bomb?"
 12N-1:15 pm Centennial Lunch. Speaker, Director of Nevada Archives Guy Rocha, "Working in the Mines: Organized Labor in Nevada's Mining Industry, 1863-1924."
 1:45 p.m. Walking tour of Goldfield and Goldfield mining sites
 7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet, Tonopah Convention Center. Richard Graeme, Presiding. Rodman Paul Award Ceremony, John Townley Award Ceremony. Speaker, former Nevada Historical Society Curator, Phil Earl, "The Discovery and Development of Tonopah."
 9:30 p.m. Poetry Reading: H. Mason Coggin, Fritz Wolff; Mining Skits: Kimberly Hickinbotham

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

8:00 a.m.-Noon Registration, Tonopah Convention Center
 8:30-9:50 a.m. Session 4: Memory, Myth, and Map. Chair: Erik Nordberg. Eleanor Swent, "Putting Flesh on the Bones of Mining History;" Vikki Ford, "The Nevada Mining Oral History Project;" Ronald M. James and Susan A. James, "The Handbook of Mining Folklore;" Richard V. Francaviglia, "Maps and Mining in the American West."
 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 Steppes, 1903-1908;" John Kepper, "Mining and Ore Processing at the Ancient Silver-Bearing Lead-Zinc Mines, Laurion District, Greece;" R. Joe Wagner, "The Mining History of Southern Missouri."
 11:15-11:55 Session 6: Mining in the Coeur d'Alene. Chair: Duane Smith. Keith R. Long, "Tailings under the Bridge: Causes and Consequences of Eighty Years of River Disposal of Tailings in the Coeur d'Alene Mining Region;" Fritz E. Wolff, "Industrial Espionage 1890s Style: A Day in the Life of a Pinkerton Agent."
 12N-1:15 p.m. Presidential Lunch, Tonopah Convention Center. Richard Graeme, Presidential Address.
 1:30-2:15 p.m. Session 7: The Big Picture. Chair: Jeremy Mouat. Noel Kirshenbaum, "Alluring Strategies in Mineral Exploration and Mine Promotion;" Peter Maciulaitis and Frank Hammelbacher, "Financing the Gold Rush."
 2:20-3:00 p.m. Session 8: Mining Technology. Chair: James Fell. Thomas P. Lugaski and James A. Young, "The History of Cyanide in Precious Metal Mining in Nevada, 1890s-1920s;" Robert M. Neil, "Driving the Harold Roberts Hardrock Tunnel, CO."
 3:00-3:10 p.m. Break
 3:10-4:10 p.m. Session 9: Mining Images and Preservation. Chair: Robert Spude. Karen and Mark Vendl, "Mines and Mining Buildings, World's Columbian Exposition, 1893"; Jackie Powell, "The Snowstorm Dredge," James D. Sell, "Ladies of the West: Belle Butler, Rosa May, Eilley Orrum, Olga Smith, and Others I Would Have Enjoyed Knowing." Rachel Dolbier, "On-Line Historical Mining Resources at the DeLaMare Library, UofNV."
 4:30-5:30 MHA Business Meeting
 7:30 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 OR 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.)



Map courtesy Stan Paher

Flow-sheet of Tonopah-Belmont Mill.

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 U.S. 95 to Hawthorne
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KNAPP AVENUE
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1,250,000 SHARES
 SHARES \$1.00 EACH

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INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS
 OF NEVADA JUNE 3, 1912

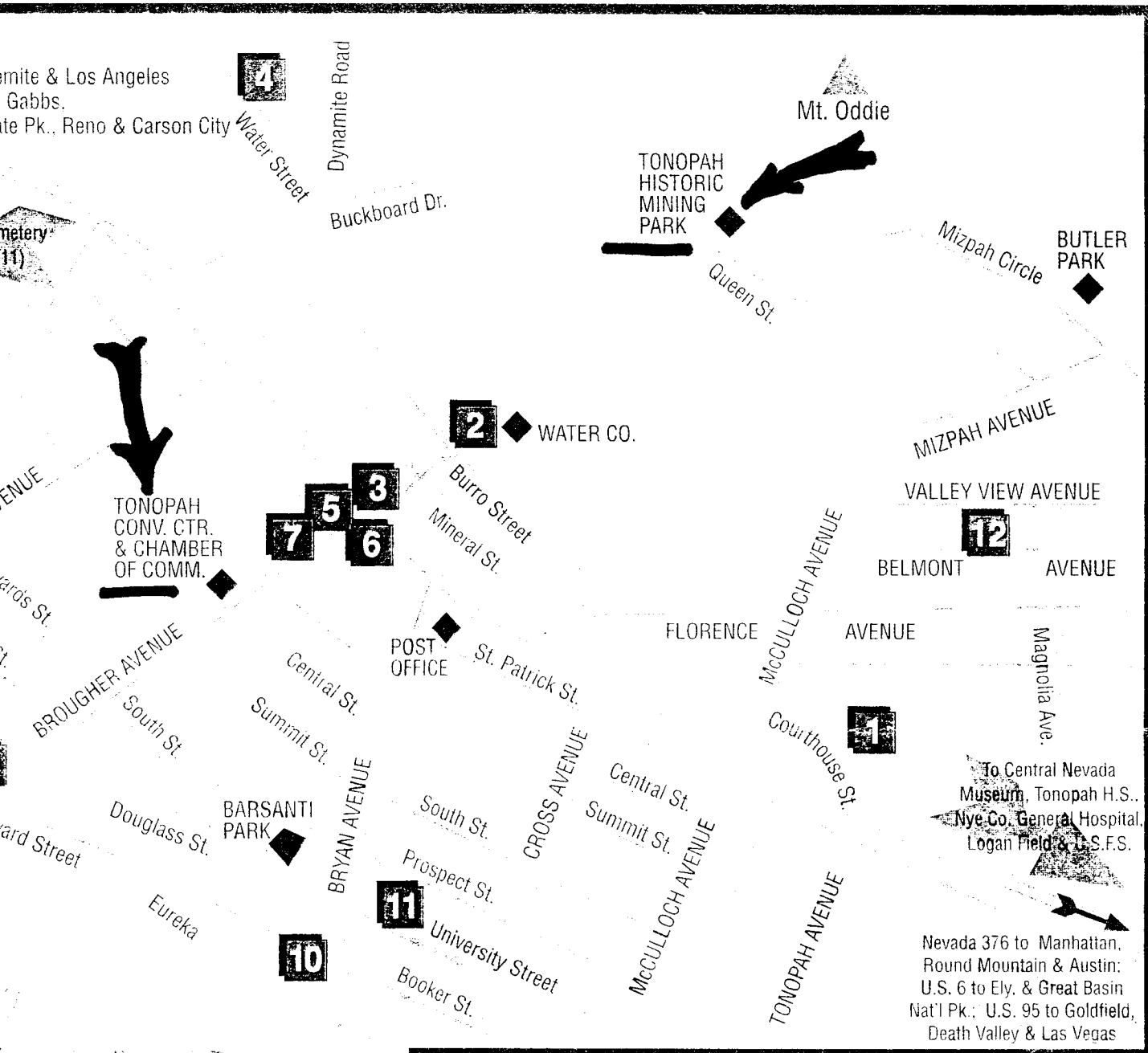
PRINCIPAL OFFICE
 TONOPAH, NEVADA

LOCATION OF MINE
 TONOPAH MOUNTAIN
 MINING DISTRICT

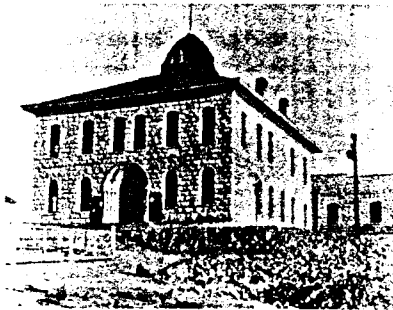
TONOPAH DIVIDE MINING COMPANY

This Certifies That **J. W. DAVIS & CO.**
 is the owner of **ONE HUNDRED** Shares of the
 Capital Stock of the **Tonopah Divide Mining Company**, which with only one
 of the shares of the Corporation by the same date, 1912, constitute the entire
 share and to be held until the said Corporation is dissolved by the duly authorized
 officers and directors of the said Corporation.

J. W. Davis



1 NYE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, McCulloch Street. Completed in 1905, this impressive Neo-Colonial structure is the largest stone building built in Tonopah. In 1907 a



two-story jail addition was built. The building has continued to serve as the center of Nye County government, with single story additions to the sides and rear added in 1968. *Photo circa 1906.*

MINERS' EXCHANGE HALL
 DAVIDOVICH & FLAMENAZ, PROPS.
 A new hall comfortably fitted up. Is ready for theatrical troupes, political meetings, dances and socials.
FOR TERMS APPLY TO THE OWNERS

JERRY AHERN,
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
 A full line of Groceries and Provisions, Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Crockery and Glassware, Hardware, LIQUORS and CIGARS.
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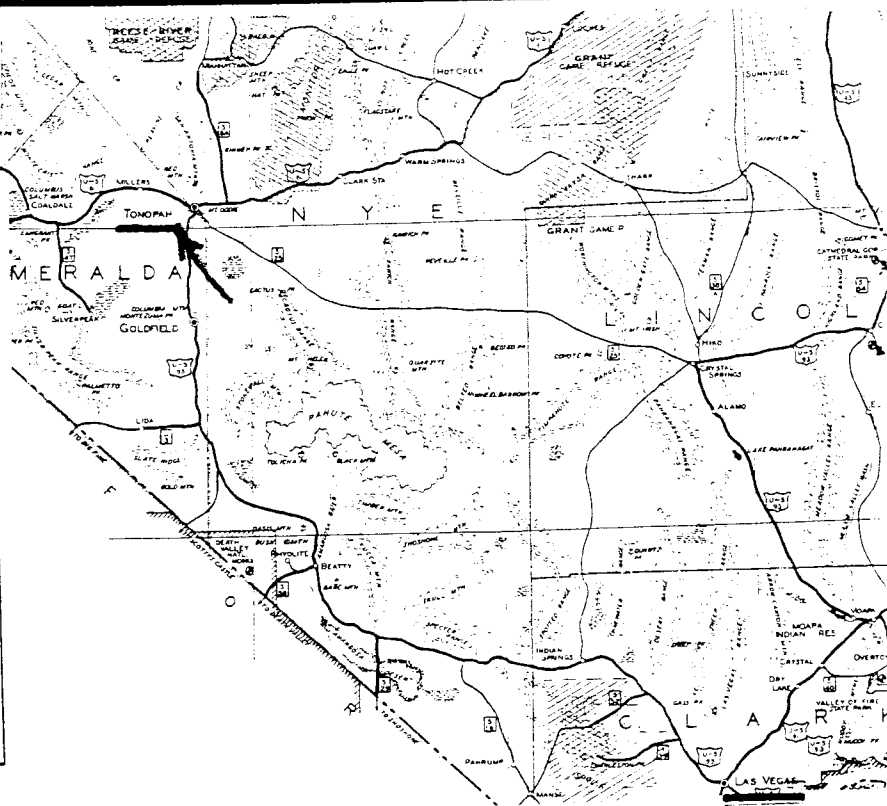
Would You Enjoy a Trip to Hell?

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, fabulous 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)

Scripophilly

Didn't your mother tell you not to say words like that? Actually, as you may know, scripophilly is the collecting of old bonds and stock certificates.

The last issue of *Mining History News* contained a brief article noting that few old stock certificates had any face value, because the companies involved had gone bankrupt. The article noted the exceptions, where a mining company had been absorbed by another, still-existing company, in which case the shares of the old company might well have value.

But, whoa! Many stock and bond certificates have value as collectibles, even though they have no intrinsic or underlying value. They are pieces of history, they are often examples of the engraver's art, many display pictorial vignettes of interest (e.g., mines, mills, prospectors, trains), and some bear valuable autographs -- from a Vanderbilt to the luminaries of Cripple Creek or the Comstock. In the collectible market, certificate values range from very little to several thousand dollars each, depending on a variety of factors, including the attributes just noted, whether issued or unissued, rarity, the fame of the mine or company, and, of course, condition. So, hang onto those certificates until you know what they're really worth.

There are a number of dealers in scripophilly: American Vignettes, POB 155, Rosele Park, NJ (908-241-4209) recently published a sales list that included hundreds of western mining certificates. As always, be careful who you deal with, and if you are selling, get more than one appraisal or offer.

Thanks to MHA member Don Kaye for the above. The editor appreciates the other values of old stock certificates and agrees with Don, don't throw those certificates out just because they lack the words Phelps Dodge or Homestake on the front. And always remember donation to a local or state archive is the best place for large collections of stock books and other corporate records.

Central Mine Preservation

The Keweenaw County Historical Society, Eagle Harbor, Michigan has acquired and is now raising funds for the preservation of the Central mine and townsite. The historic site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes the mine, ten dwellings and a church.

The Central Mining Company was organized in November 1854 during the first boom in Michigan copper. The mine showed a profit from its first year and the town around it grew to a population of 1200, with store, churches, doctor, post office, and school. In 1898, after the extraction of 54 million pounds of copper, the vein ran out and the mine closed.

Over the twentieth century, many of the structures were removed or fell into disuse and disrepair. The former residents held an annual reunion starting in 1907, however, and on July 3, 2000 the Central Mine M.E. Church will hold the 94th consecutive reunion service.

The historical society owns 40 acres. The homes on the property have been leased to ensure their continued maintenance and upkeep. The remaining three residences are the focus of recent preservation efforts. The society has a Penny a Pound campaign, which has already raised funds for the reattachment of siding, window repair, roof patching and painting the buildings.

The society will open a visitor center in 2000 to share this significant site with the many visitors to the tip of the Upper Peninsula. During the MHA conference at Houghton in 1998, participants visited the society's Eagle Harbor Lighthouse museum complex. The opening of the Central Mine complex will add to the experience of those seeking the history of the rich copper country.

For more information contact the Keweenaw County Historical Society, HC-1, Box 265L, Eagle Harbor, MI. Membership is \$15 per year; donations welcome. Thanks to Dave Thomas, VP, (906-337-4471) for the above material.

Asian Americans

Priscilla Wegars sends the latest issue of the *Asian American Comparative Collections Newsletter*, an informative sheet issued from the University of Idaho. In it she lists summer tours, which include "The World of Polly Bemis," led by Wegars, to the home of the Chinese woman whose story was made into the excellent, but underrated movie "A Thousand Pieces of Gold." Sam Couch of Georgia Southern University will direct "Chinese in Territorial Idaho: 2000 Wilderness Field School," the excavation of a Chinese site near Warren, Idaho. Information about the tours or program are available by calling the University of Idaho Enrichment Program at 208-885-6486.

Preservation Notes:

Jackie Powell and Gary Higgins sent the "Snowstorm Update," a news sheet about the efforts to preserve the **Snowstorm dredge** outside Fairplay, Colorado. The dredge needs to be moved to a new site, and the Preserve the Snowstorm Dredge, Inc. has initiated nomination of the dredge to the National Register of Historic Places, has received a grant from the Colorado History Fund to document the dredge and plan for its preservation, and has received much gratis help, from the loan of historic photographs to a hazard waste study. The group has a long way to go, but all motion is forward. Gary and Jackie will present the group's efforts to date at the Tonopah conference.

The historic smokestacks in **Murray, Utah** mentioned in the last newsletter appear to be slated for demolition in mid-May. Preservation plans to save the landmark structures failed to convince the promoters of a \$100 million commercial development at the site, as well as the EPA. The discussions now focus on a museum, videos or other means to commemorate the Salt Lake Valleys one-time great industry.

Ghost Cities

In 1915, sometime movie script writer and sports journalist Charles E. Van Loan wrote a series in the *Saturday Evening Post* about "Ghost Cities" of the Nevada-California desert country, and spawned the cottage industry of ghost town guide books. Nevada has been the focus of much of this industry. Early journalists and photographers caught the stories of old timers and the images of weathered board shacks, first appearing in the journal *Touring Topics* of the Los Angeles Automobile Club in the late teens and twenties.

Depression Era and after journalists, from C. B. Glasscock to Ernie Pyle, wrote of the desert rats and their camps, but best known and loved was the tireless Nell Murbarger. Murbarger deserves the claim to being the mother of the ghost town book, the format copied many times by subsequent writers.

Stan Paher, tour leader on Sundays ghost town jaunt during the Tonopah conference, is at the other end of Van Loan and the early and mid-twentieth century writers, and a definite shift from the Murbarger-style.

Stan says he grew up in Las Vegas reading the tales of the old camps written by newsman Don Ashbaugh in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Ashbaugh later compiled the essays into *Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday* (1963 -- an example of a Murbarger imitation), but Paher was already hooked on visiting the camps, the old timers, and collecting every bit of information, photographs, and collectibles about the hundreds of ghost towns across the silver state. In the late 1960s he met up with the publishing house of Howell-North, with a little help from railroad historian David Myrick. The result was Stan's classic *Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps*, one of the best guide books ever

published. Still in print forty-one years after publication, it is a rich treasure of photographs and ghost town history.

Stan shortly thereafter started Nevada Publications, which has issued a host of Nevadiana, including a needed, fat bibliography on Nevada and his continued issuance of guide books and ghost town pamphlets.

For Tonopah, he will, first, on Saturday evening, give an illustrated talk about the region and its mining history. On Sunday, MHA members and friends in four-wheelers will caravan off on a rare chance to venture into some of the more isolated spots in Nevada's mining country. Be prepared for the usual four wheeler needs -- don't expect the use of hoists, hooks and ladders, but be prepared for the usual high centered roads, sand, and a possible blow-out. Bring snacks and water and an ear for the expected good stories, true and otherwise.

Mining History Association

Post Office Box 150300
Denver, Colorado 80215