

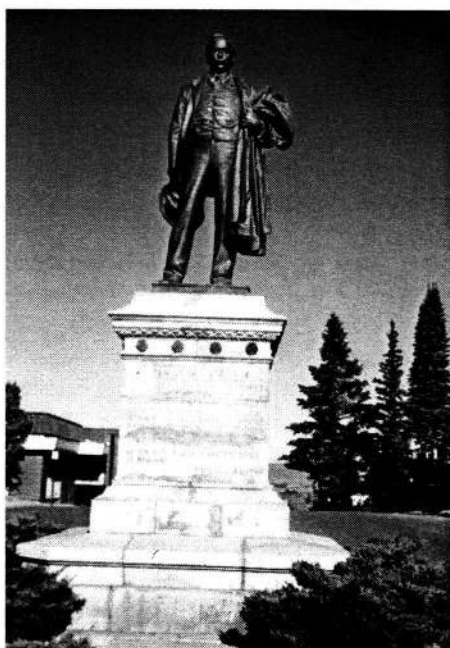
MINING HISTORY NEWS

September, 2001

Volume 12, Number 3

Thanks Butte Hosts!

The twelfth annual MHA meeting was held in Butte, Montana, June 14-17, 2001. Montana Tech and the copper mining district at Butte provided the backdrop to an enjoyable and educational meeting. The meeting started Thursday afternoon with registration at the Finlen Hotel in downtown Butte, followed by an open house at the World Museum of Mining. ARCO, Renewable Technologies, Inc., GCM Services, Inc., and Quivik Consulting Historians, Inc. provided a wonderful reception Thursday evening in Montana Tech's beautifully restored mill build-



Marcus Daly statue at Montana Tech. Check out the MHA website, www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm, for more photographs of the meeting.

ing. This was followed by a day and a half of insightful and entertaining presentations.

On Friday afternoon the folks of Butte organized a tour of the surface and underground workings of the Anselmo mine. The Friday evening banquet and awards ceremony was highlighted by keynote speaker, Clark Spence, who presented "My Personal Reflections on Fifty Years of Mining History".

Rodman Paul Award recipients for 2001 were Liston Leyendecker and Fred Quivik. John Townley Award recipients for articles in the 2000 MHA Journal went to (tie) Noel W. Kirshenbaum for his article "The Giant Gold Diggers: California's Land Going Fleet of Dredges" and to Karen Pickett for her article "Environmental Battlefield: Ruston, Washington, Home to an ASARCO Smelter and Superfund Site."

Saturday evening events included a discussion by Robert Sorgenfrei of the top ten books on mining techniques and practice, followed by a mining machinery slide show contest of WHAT IS THAT? presented by Ron Limbaugh, Mark Langenfeld, and Homer Milford. It was hard to choose among the Sunday field trips—Industrial Butte/Anaconda, tour of the Charter Oaks mill, and a tour of Bannack and Virginia City. Word has it that they were all a success.

Thanks go to the local arrangements committee of Ellen Crain, Mary Williams, Ann Gilmore, Connie Kenney, Mary McCormick, Barb Kornet, and Dori Skrukrud. Special thanks go to Bob Spude for all his work in bringing this meeting together.

Wallace, Idaho, June 20-23, 2002

As you drive through the forested mountains of the Coeur d'Alene you will see the mine dumps, head frames and monuments that make a mining historian's heart beat faster. What you won't see are the hundreds of miles of underground workings and the tens of thousands of adventurous stories that accompany a 120-year-old, world class mining district. As you exit I-90 and cross the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River on your way to beautiful and historic Wallace, you will want to stop at the visitor's center and mining park. There, you can pick up brochures that will explain why the people of Wallace call their home "The Silver Capital of the World"—a title earned after producing a billion ounces of silver. They can, and probably will, brag that the Coeur d'Alene mining district has the deepest, richest, and largest silver mines in the United States: the Star-Morning, Sunshine, and Bunker Hill mines.

The people of Wallace may or may not tell you that at today's prices their deep and rich mines are becoming uneconomic and all but one is in the process of closing. The town is losing many of its experienced underground miners to the highly profitable and higher-paying platinum/palladium mines in Montana or to the open-pit gold mines of Nevada. Fortunately, Northern Idaho has other natural assets. The mountains, streams, and lakes make for some of the nation's best hunting, fishing, and skiing. Ten miles down the freeway is the old Bunker Hill mine and smelter town of Kellogg, which now claims the world's longest gondola

ride. More than a hundred miles of old mining rights-of-way, including tunnels and trestles, have been converted to mountain bike and hiking trails. So come early and stay late; there is a lot to see and do in Northern Idaho. Hope to see you in Wallace for a great MHA meeting.

Bob Weldin

President's Page

Discovering Mining History's Trans-Oceanic Connections

Mining landscapes not only reflect impacts on the environment, but also reveal far-flung connections with other mining locales. Consider, for example, a row of stone houses along Shakerag Street in the historic lead and zinc mining town of Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Shakerag Street represents the material culture of Cornish stone masons and miners who traveled across the Atlantic Ocean, bringing experiences, skills, and ideas with them to a new mining area. Immigrant miners like the Cornish "Cousin Jacks" of numerous hard rock mining districts, the Italians and Poles of coal mining locales like Thurber, Texas, or the Chinese gold miners of California and Idaho are often recognized as distinctive social groups. But what type of expertise did they bring here, and what new things did they learn after they arrived? In our effort to understand the human drama of mining, we should recall that there is another aspect associated with the migration of miners - the technological dimension - that also crosses oceans. I am speaking here of the techniques used to identify, mine, and process ores. Like peoples, mining technology has source areas and leaves a trail of visible evidence.

Many of the metallurgical processing techniques that made our American mining districts boom were really imported from Central Europe's (and the Mediterranean region's) most famous early mining regions. It is more than coincidence, for example, that the nine-

teenth century mercury mining community of New Idria in California bears the name of a mining district in Slovenia -- Idria -- that has been associated with quicksilver mining for more than 500 years. When I pick up a piece of cinnabar on the mine dumps in central California, I realize that I've been taught to recognize it through a complex flow of ideas and information so powerful that it crosses oceans, unifying local history with global events. Because time and space are inseparable, the geographer in me wants to learn more about how ideas travel, while the historian in me wants to know more about when and how these ideas took shape.

Here at the University of Texas at Arlington, I teach in a newly-created Transatlantic History doctoral program. Although most of my efforts to date have focused on exploration and other historic subjects based on our extensive collection of historic maps, I also realize that the opportunities for studying transatlantic mining history are almost unlimited. I've begun to identify a number of virtually unexplored subjects in both cultural and technological history, all related to mining. What mining-related skills, for example, did enslaved African miners bring to the Americas? Back in the 1700s, when the governor of colonial Virginia expressed his amazement that African slaves made surprisingly good miners, he assumed they were starting with a clean slate. They were not: the historical record in Africa suggests that many had prior experience in mining and metallurgy. In addition to thinking about the social aspects of the African diaspora, we should also be thinking about how imported expertise played out in the New World. In more modern times, the subject of how mining corporations and unions communicated internationally needs greater study: How, for example, did flows of ideas move across oceans to affect both labor and management as they squared off in defending their interests?

This is my way of saying that mining history is remarkably interconnected

across the oceans, and that we need to know more about how these interconnections work. Although it is true that our Mining History Association is largely American in focus, I believe that we have much to gain by cooperating with mining historians from other continents. Because mining historians on different continents stand to learn so much from each other, I have asked Vice President/President-elect Jeremy Mouat to serve as a liaison between MHA and the International mining history association. If you are interested in helping MHA make stronger contacts internationally, I invite you to contact him at Jeremym@athabasca.ca.

Richard Francaviglia
University of Texas at Arlington

Drill Bits

Colorado Preservation, Inc. has selected the Snowstorm Dredge for Colorado's Most Endangered Places List for 2001. Designation brings with it technical assistance, publicity, fundraising advice, and heightened concern about the property among the preservation community.

The Southern Teller County Focus Group, along with the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company, was given a State Honor Award for historic preservation from Colorado Preservation, Inc. at an awards dinner in Denver, June 1, 2001. The award was given for the work on the Vindicator Valley and Battle Mountain trails, and was one of six State Honor Awards given at the dinner. MHA's Ed Hunter was one of those accepting the award. Congratulations, Ed.

On May 30, 2001, Miners' Memorial Park was dedicated on a reclaimed surface mine near McConnelsville, Ohio. The park is dedicated to the men and women who mined coal in southeastern Ohio. The focal point of the Park is a 220 cubic yard bucket from Big Muskie, the world's largest walking dragline.

CALL FOR PAPERS

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

**WALLACE, IDAHO
JUNE 20 –23, 2002**

The program committee for the Wallace, Idaho meeting of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (including chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions normally include three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no temporal or geographic limits.

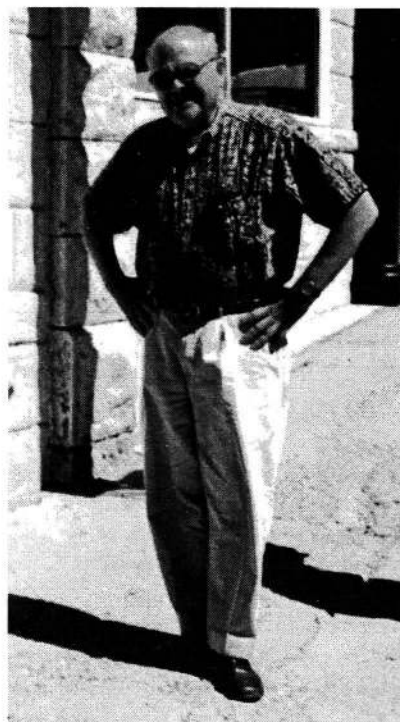
Proposals should include an abstract (one paragraph) for each paper, plus biographical information about each presenter and session participant. Please send the written proposals to the program committee chair by **January 31, 2002**.

2002 Program Committee:

Jeremy Mouat, 2002 Program Chair
Associate Professor, History
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta
T9S 3A3 CANADA
Jeremym@athabascau.ca

Carlos Schwantes

Bob Weldin



Liston at the MHA meeting in Tonopah, June 2000.

Liston E. Levendecker (1931-2001)

I have known Liston for nearly forty years now, from the days I started researching at the Colorado Historical Society. I believe he was working there as the deputy state historian--might be wrong on this, however (senior moment!). Without question, I have had no better friend and colleague among the realm of Colorado and mining historians. We have shared ideas, insights, research, joys, and a few heartaches along the way, all the time having great fun prospecting about and mining Colorado history.

His enthusiasm for Colorado history was unmatched. It carried over into the classroom, as some of his former students have always told me. Liston exemplified a professional in historic interests, research/writing, and teaching. His work on the Central City/Georgetown mining region is exemplary and opened new areas to explore and standards to match, for those who will journey in his footsteps to work in the field.

He leaves a great legacy for Colorado and mining historians and teachers to follow. His love for the subject, making it come alive, and professional standards should inspire those who come after him. Colorado's heritage is richer for Liston's love of its history. We will miss him. He leaves a legacy that his family, students, and friends can be proud of now and in the future.

Tap 'er light, old friend,
Duane Smith

Organizational Notes

Many thanks to Bob Spude for his hard work over the years as Newsletter Editor.

Mining History Journal

The MHA Journal's editor reports that the 2001 edition will soon go into production. He would like to pass along two recent ideas for journal articles offered by members of the organization.

Sally Zanjani has suggested publishing short historical accounts, such as eyewitness accounts of mining events, places or personalities, drawn from archives or out-of-print publications.

Dick Graeme offered the other idea to the membership at the Tonopah conference. He asked our members to consider writing about their own mining activities, noting that some of our members have decades of experience in the mining industry or in preservation and research.

The editor urges anyone interested to submit personal reminiscences or suggestions for potential historical reprints to: Eric Clements, Mining History Journal, Department of History MS2960, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, eclements@semovm.semo.edu.

MHA Board Meeting

President Richard Francaviglia called to order the board meeting held June 16, 2001 at Butte. Bob Weldin with John Amonson are organizing the Wal-

lace, Idaho meeting and reported on preparations for next year. The program committee was selected: Jeremy Mouat, chair, Carlos Schwantes, and Bob Weldin. Jay Fell provided the treasurer's report followed by a discussion on fundraising. The board approved the selling of advertisements in the journal at the following rate: \$150 per page; \$100 half page.

Erik Nordberg reported on the website and asked everyone to send items to him to put on the MHA web page. Because of the recent death of newly elected board member Mason Coggin, President Francaviglia appointed Chris Huggard to fill his seat on the board. Liston Leyendecker, who died in May, will not be replaced since his board seat was up for replacement in the fall election.

Nominating committee representative Lysa Wegman-French reported that a full slate of candidates for the fall election had been selected. Much discussion followed on creating a directory. Board member Homer Milford volunteered to explore the options for producing one. Journal editor Eric Clements is seeking submissions for the next issue. The journal should be back on schedule by next summer. The journal is edited by Eric, managing editor is Charles Hughes, and Chris Huggard is book review editor. The journal review board -- Duane Smith, Don Hardesty, Sally Zanjani, Jay Fell, Jeremy Mouat, and Bob Spude -- will be replaced on a rotation of 2 replaced per year, with 3-year terms. The editor selects the editorial review board members. New newsletter editors Mark and Karen Vendl were introduced and described plans for the future. Officers present: Richard Francaviglia, Jeremy Mouat, Bob Spude, Jay Fell, Lee Swent, Homer Milford, Chris Huggard, and Erik Nordberg.

Membership

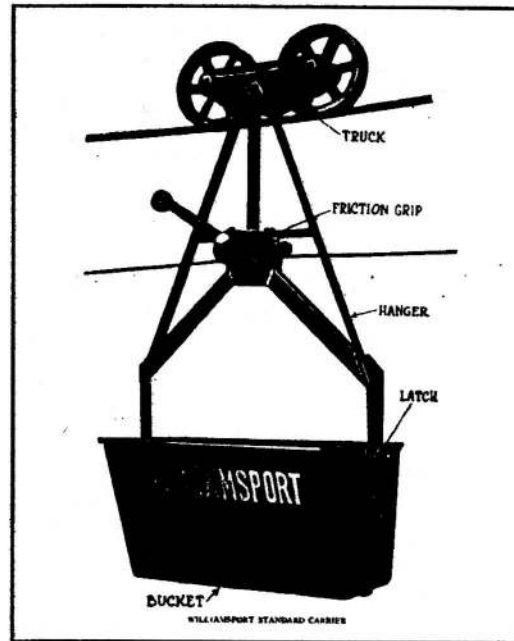
If your mailing label is incorrect, please drop Bob Sorgenfrei a note at Rsorgenf@Mines.com.

MINING THE AMERICAN WEST

As the old mining saying went, "Silver runs in ledges and gold is where you find it." Or as one prospector grumbled, "Gold is where I ain't." For scholars of mining history, gold is where you *are*—in the new mining history series sponsored by the University Press of Colorado.

Along with series editors Duane A. Smith, Robert A. Trennert, and Liping Zhu, the University Press of Colorado is prospecting for manuscripts in the field of mining history. Defined broadly, this can include manuscripts about mining communities, people, technology, mines, districts, and whatever else might touch upon mining in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and possibly as early as the arrival of the Spanish. Nor is the scope of the series limited to mining for precious metals: manuscripts dealing with the extraction of base and fuel are also welcome. However, all manuscripts submitted for the series must deal in a substantial way with the history of mining in the American West. This new series offers the opportunity for anyone interested in mining history to find a home for his/her work. The scope of the series is limited only by the interest of the writers who submit manuscripts.

Your personal El Dorado is at hand, a chance for that long-planned mining history project to be completed and published. Don't delay. Staking your claim early is as important now as it was 150 years ago in California, or later in Colorado, Nevada, Montana, or anywhere else that prospectors hit paydirt or promoters rambled.



All manuscripts will be reviewed by the series editors. You may contact any one of the above editors or the acquisitions department of the University Press of Colorado at:

Acquisitions Department
University Press of Colorado
5589 Arapahoe Avenue
Suite 206C
Boulder, CO 80303
720-406-8849; FAX 720-406-3443
email: darrin@upcolorado.com

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WWW.UPCOLORADO.COM

Mining History Association Election, 2001 Candidate Biographies

Vice-President/President-Elect

Ed Hunter, E.M., worked as a miner, engineer, and manager for mining companies from Vanadium, New Mexico to Nome, Alaska, following his graduation from the Colorado School of Mines. Past chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, he continues to serve as a Lifetime Trustee. Ed advises on local mining history for the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company's exhibits in the Victor, Colorado area. He is particularly interested in the history of the technology of the mining industry and gave a paper on the Cripple Creek area at the Golden meeting of MHA. He has served on the Nominating Committee, has been a Board Member, and is a charter member of the Mining History Association.

Council (vote for 3)

Ruth Ann Gardner, an active member of MHA since 1991, became interested in mining history shortly after receiving her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nebraska and joined the Kennecott Copper Corporation. Later, after her children were nearly grown, she returned to school to receive a M.S. in Mining Engineering from the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada. Her primary interest is mining machinery, and she is a volunteer at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center, where she is working with the Joshua Hendy Iron Works collection of 3000 ink-on-linen drawings.

James D. McBride, Adjunct Professor in the History Department at Arizona State University, has been a member of the Mining History Association since its beginning. His interest in mining dates to his M.A. thesis topic at Arizona State University, "The Western Federation of Miners in Arizona" (1974). That was followed with a Ph. D. diss., also at ASU, (1982) on Henry S. McCluskey, an organizer for the WFM. Since then he has actively studied, written about and presented talks on a variety of topics related to mining, miners, and organized labor in mining. He has attended most MHA conferences and has had articles published in several journals including the MHA Journal and has presented at its conferences.

James D. Sell is retired after forty-five years as an underground-mine geologist, exploration geologist, and consultant, mainly with ASARCO Incorporated. Strong interest in preservation of historical, mining, and geological sites. He is currently a tour guide at the ASARCO Mineral Discovery Center for tours of the Mission Mine Complex, and enjoys researching topics for presentation at the Mining History Association meetings.

Nominating Committee (vote for 3)

Mark Langenfeld, a MHA member since 1992, lives and practices natural resources, intellectual property and aviation law in Madison, Wisconsin. He has been involved in the permitting process for the proposed Crandon zinc/copper mine since 1994. Along with his wife Lynn, a former MHA Council member, he is researching for publication the rich -- but poorly chronicled -- history of the Upper-Mississippi Valley Zinc/Lead District of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. Mark and Lynn presented a paper on their work (and, in particular, their assessment of abandoned mines within the district as suitable bat hibernacula) at the 1993 MHA Conference in Lead, SD. He presented an update on recent developments in the district at the 2001 Conference in Butte, MT.

An Idaho native, **Ronald H. Limbaugh** completed graduate work at the University of Idaho (Ph.D. 1967), and for 34 years taught history at the University of the Pacific until his retirement in 2000. Author and editor of a number of books and articles in the field of western American history, including *Rocky Mountain Carpetbaggers* (1980) and *John Muir's Stickeen and the Lessons of Nature* (1996), he has specialized in environmental history and the history of technology. He has been an active participant in academic events commemorating the Gold Rush, and his article on California mining technology is included in "A Golden State", published by the California Historical Society.

Since 1977, **Robert Sorgenfrei** has worked in libraries that have manuscript and photographic collections that deal with Western American History. He developed an interest in mining history in 1991, after taking his current job at the Arthur Lakes Library, Colorado School of Mines. Aside from being in charge of collection development at the library, since 1995 he has also been in charge of the Russell L. & Lynn Wood Mining History Archive, a research center for the study of mining history. He is interested in how mine reports were used to promote mining schemes and how mine reports that still survive today can be used to study mining history from a variety of economic, social, and political aspects. In particular, he is interested as to how small time promoters managed to get financial support for less than viable mining schemes from investors.

National Mining Hall of Fame

Seven legendary figures of North American mining were enshrined in the National Mining Hall of Fame in ceremonies on September 8, 2001 at the Museum Convention Center in Leadville, Colorado. Inductees included: Stewart R. Wallace, Jesus Garcia, Ralph H. Kress, James J. Scott, Robert M. Smith, Spencer Penrose, and Charles L. Tutt. The keynote speaker was Duane A. Smith, professor of history at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Duane emphasized the accomplishments of Lucien L. Nunn in bringing alternating current (AC) to Southwestern Colorado in the 1890s and electrifying the mines.

Mary Garatti of Willits, California, was chosen as the "2001 Miner's Poet Laureate" in a poetry contest sponsored by the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum.

Other winners included Kitty Hitt of West Frankfort, Illinois; William Penhallegon of Clearwater, Florida; and Bridgette Crosby of Glendale, Arizona.

Ms. Garatti recited her award-winning verse, "In Need of Some Sleep," at the 14th Annual National Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, September 8, 2001, at the Museum Convention Center in Leadville.

Winter Reading

Bob Weldin suggests the following books as background reading for next year's meeting in Wallace, Idaho: Ray Chapman, *History of Idaho's Silver Valley, 1878-2000* (Kellogg, ID, Chapman Publ. Co., 2000); John Fahey, *The Ballyhoo Bonanza* (Seattle, U of WA Press, 1971); John Fahey, *The Days of Hercules* (Moscow, U of ID Press, 1978); John Fahey, *Hecla, A Century of Western Mining* (Seattle, U of WA Press, 1991); Hart and Nelson, *Mining Town* (Seattle, U of WA Press, 1984); J. Anthony Lukas, *Big Trouble* (Simon & Schuster, 1997); Richard G. Magnuson, *Coeur D'Alene Diary* (Portland, OR, Metro. Press, 1983);

Robert Smith, *History of Placer and Quartz Gold Mining in the Coeur D'Alene District* (Fairfield, WA, Ye Galleon Press, 1993); W.T. Stoll, *Silver Strike* (Moscow, U of ID Press, 1932, 1991 reprint); J.V. Wood, *Railroads Through the Coeur D'Alenes* (Caldwell, Caxton Printers, 1983).

For a more extensive bibliography of the Coeur d'Alene mining district, check out the MHA website (www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm).

Mexico City

Ines Herera and Alma Parra of Mexico City organized a session on the transfer of technology during the 22d International Congress on the History of Science held in Mexico City in July. MHAers Jay Fell, Bob Spude, Roger Burt, and Steve Heycock were on the panel with Alma and Ines. Jay spoke about smelter technology transfer, Roger talked about international exchanges of British technology, Steve talked about changes in the British coal industry, and Bob presented a piece about cultural diversity and technological innovation. The group also had an opportunity to tour the former mining towns of Taxco and Real del Monte. Thanks to our friends in Mexico for organizing and getting the session on the agenda.

Book Notes

Robert Trennert's new book *Riding the High Wire* is the first comprehensive history of aerial tramways in the American West, describing their place in the evolution of mining after 1970. Bob shows how the mid-nineteenth century development of wire rope manufacturing made it possible to begin erecting single-rope tramways in the 1870s and 1880s. This was followed by double-rope systems imported from Europe. By the turn of the century, aerial tramways were common throughout western mining regions, hauling everything from gold and silver ore to coal and salt and changing the

face of the industry. Available from University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 206C, Boulder, CO 80303, \$45.00 cloth, \$19.95 paper, \$4.50 shipping and handling.

The University Press of Colorado has also recently published Liston E. Leyendecker's book *The Griffith Family & the Founding of Georgetown*. In this book, Liston describes two years (1859-1861) in the lives of the Griffiths and how they attempted to tame an isolated wilderness and harvest its mineral riches. A decade before Georgetown came to be known as Colorado's "Silver Queen", George F. Griffith struck gold along South Clear Creek, prompting his family to establish a gold mining settlement there that never yielded the expected bonanza. But by the time they left in 1861, they had laid the legal and civic foundation that paved the way for Colorado's first major silver center. \$45.00 cloth, \$4.50 shipping and handling.

Blown to Bits in the Mine by Eric Twitty charts the evolution of the rise of the use of explosives for mining and quarrying in North America from the Industrial Revolution into the twentieth century. This book presents a detailed look at the whole process of using explosives, from drilling blast-holes to setting off the charges, with an emphasis on technology, material culture, and the impacts to the mine as a work environment. Available from Western Reflections Publishing Co., 430 N. First St., Montrose, CO 81402-1647, 1-800-993-4490, \$22.95 hardbound, free shipping and handling.

MHA Annual Breakfast

**7:00 am, Friday
October 7, 2001**

**Western History Assoc.
Annual Meeting
Town and Country Resort
San Diego, California**



Mining History Association
Post Office Box 150300
Denver, Colorado 80215
www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm

Membership in the Mining History Association is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$25 (\$35 international). Membership includes the *Mining History News* quarterly newsletter and the *Mining History Journal*. As in the past, MHA will host an annual conference, which includes tours, symposiums, and social events.

Officers 2001

Richard Francaviglia, President
Jeremy Mouat, Vice-President
Robert L. Spude, Secretary
James Fell, Treasurer

Council

Richard Graeme, Past President
Charles Hughes, 1999-2001
Erik Nordberg, 1999-2001
Glen Cook, 2000-2002
Homer Milford, 2000-2002
Eleanor Swent, 2001-2003
Chris Huggard, 2001-2003

Membership Chair

Robert Sorgenfrei

Denver Office Coordinator

Lysa Wegman-French

The *Mining History News* is the quarterly newsletter of the Mining History Association. Please send submissions and suggestions for the newsletter to: Mark and Karen Vendl, 1136 Kemman Ave., LaGrange Park, IL 60526, mkvendl@earthlink.net. Deadline for the next newsletter is **December 1, 2001**.

2001 Dues Are Due

If you have already paid your dues for 2001, please ignore this notice. If you are unsure, please check the mailing label below. Your name should be followed by "2001" if you are up to date. If not, please send your renewal check for \$25 (\$35 international) to remain on the active list of MHA.

Mining History Association
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Denver, Colorado 80215

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