

Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

July, 2003



Volume 14, Number 2

President's Column

Early Thursday morning, June 5th, the MHA Board members mushed through the remnants of the pre-conference snow to hold their regular annual meeting. I would like to update you on the Board's actions.

The introduction of Webmaster Ruth Zirkle Zalewski to the Board was the first order of business to put a face on the website rather than a gaggle of pixels. The website (www.mininghistoryassociation.org), under the direction of our tireless Secretary, Mark Vendl, is an excellent source of information on YOUR organization.

Following Treasurer Jay Fell's report that we are indeed solvent, Journal Editor Eric Clements reported on his stepped-up schedule in order to meet timely Journal publication dates by the June, 2005 issue. Erik Nordberg volunteered to compile an index of Journal articles to be posted on the website. Both measures were approved by the Board.

Membership Chairman Robert

Sorgenfrei announced that an updated membership list would be published later this year reflecting our many new members. In the past, some confusion has arisen over current membership status for some members. The Board approved Bob's proposal to send renewal notices each year to all current members in an effort to alleviate this hassle. Mark Vendl reminded everyone that the address label on each newsletter indicates the yearly status of membership.

After 10 long years of running the MHA Denver Office, Lysa Wegman-French submitted her resignation as Denver Office Coordinator. The Board accepted her resignation with regret and directed that a certificate of appreciation for her loyal and devoted service be sent to her. Robert Sorgenfrei was appointed by the Board to assume the duties of the Office Coordinator. The permanent address of the office will now be, effective immediately:

Mining History Association
Colorado School of Mines Library
1400 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Duane Smith and Jay Fell discussed the annual Clark Spence Award recently established by MHA and described elsewhere in this Newsletter. The committee appointed for the first award under the Chairmanship of Ron Brown will be Bob Spude and Betsy Jameson.

A team presentation on the 2004 conference to be held in Farmington, Missouri was given by Eric and Barbara Clements. The conference will be held June 17 - 20, 2004, as approved by the Board even though it is slightly later in June than previous conferences due to some conflicts. Duane Smith will head the Program Committee aided by Chris Huggard and Eric Clements. All abstracts for papers must be submitted to Duane Smith prior to December 31, 2003. It is vital for the committee to have time to review all abstracts and formulate the program. This will permit presenters to be notified of their acceptance as early as possible as well as those whose papers were not accepted. More abstracts were submitted for the 2003 conference than time

allowed. In the future, an extra session for presentations may be required. The Board is currently opposed to holding dual sessions causing attendees to miss hearing anticipated papers due to conflicting sessions.

The only formal presentation submitted for location of the 2005 Conference was from the hard coal country of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Although interest had been expressed by Leadville, Colorado, Globe, Arizona and the Iron Range of Minnesota, no formal submissions were received. Upon review of the proposal, Scranton was unanimously approved as the site of the June, 2005 MHA Conference. The selection of the site will fulfill two proposed MHA objectives to a) more actively embrace the mining history of coal mining and b) to reach out geographically to the east coast and their extensive mining history.

After a brief discussion, it was decided to keep the major book reviews in the Journal and continue the book notes in the Newsletter. The proposed change was suggested because of long delays in the Journal publication, which means that reviews are often published long after the book has been on the market. However, the Journal Editor's new publication schedule will alleviate this problem.

It was announced that the 2003 recipients of the Rodman Paul Award were Lysa Wegman-French and Elliot West.

Past President Jeremy Mouat and President-elect Ron Brown graciously agreed to co-chair a committee to review and update, as necessary, the MHA Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws. These items were filed with the Colorado Secretary of State 10 years ago thanks to the services of Stan Dempsey. Over the years, the by-laws have been modified by Board action and should be integrated into a current document.

The retreat held by the MHA Board at the Ouray Conference in 1999 produced a list (thanks to Bob Spude) of proposed plans for the forthcoming 10 years. What have we accomplished?

(1) The Board has created the annual Clark Spence Award recognizing excellence in mining history book authors.

(2) A MHA web page has been developed.

(3) Bob Weldin conducted a statistical analysis of our members from their indicated interests in the Directory. Refer to the December, 2002 MHA Newsletter.

(4) The Journal Editor is speeding up publication dates to insure that the Journal is published on time by 2005.

Certainly this is a start but we are 40% through the proposed 10 year plan and there are many objectives lying dormant. I would appreciate your input on those plans and how we might implement them or other items that MHA should be addressing.

The observations will be summarized and forwarded to the Board. Anyone who missed Bob's article in the Newsletter or who does not have the Ouray Conference plans for the future can get a copy by e-mailing me at my new address, stoperat@ccvnet.net or snail mail at Box 186, Victor, CO 80860.

To all of you who contributed so much to the recently completed conference - presenters, moderators and participants - my personal thanks and particularly, to Karen and Mark Vendl, Cherry Hunter and Duane Smith. The cooperation and support of the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company, host for the Friday luncheon and surface mine tour, was very much appreciated as were the door prizes donated by the Victor Trading Company and others.

"May you stand in ore and your labours be in vein".
Ed

Special thanks are due to the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company of Victor, Colorado for joining MHA as our first Corporate member. Corporate memberships are available for \$500.

In August the annual directory of members will be mailed out to those who have paid their dues for 2003. For those who have not paid this year, a letter has gone out informing members that they

CALL FOR PAPERS



FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

FARMINGTON, MISSOURI
JUNE 17-20, 2004

The 2004 Mining History Conference will be in the Lead District of beautiful southeastern Missouri.

The program committee for the Missouri meeting 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 note, speakers must register for the conference in order to give their presentations. Please send the written proposals to the program committee chair by **December 31, 2003**.

Program Chair:
Duane Smith
288 SW Center
Fort Lewis College
Durango, CO 81301

have not paid their annual dues, and if we do not receive their 2003 dues, they will be dropped from the membership rolls.

If any MHA member who is currently paid up has not received their directory by September 15th, they should contact Bob Sorgenfrei at the

new MHA address:
Mining History Association
Colorado School of Mines
Library
1400 Illinois Street
Golden, CO 80401

Please use this address for dues payments and all MHA correspondence.

MHA is still accepting donations for the upcoming Clark Spence Award. Please send checks to the above address made out to : MHA-Clark Spence Award.

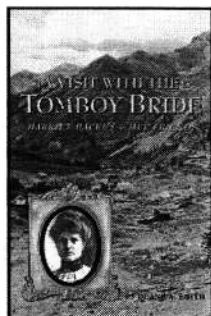


Book Notes

A number of mining history related books has recently been published, many by members of MHA. Here is a sampling. Summaries are provided by the publishers.

A Visit with the Tomboy Bride, Harriet Backus & Her Friends

By Duane A. Smith



ISBN: 1-890437-87-5

Binding: Softcover

Pages: 144 pages

Illustrations: 31 photographs

Published: 2003

Price: \$12.95, shipping free

Publisher: Western Reflections Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1647, Montrose, Colorado 81402-1647, 800-993-4490, www.westernreflections.pub.com, email westref@montrose.net

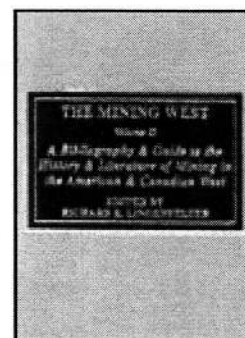
It has been over thirty years since Harriet Fish Backus wrote *Tomboy Bride*. Those that have read this regional classic about the trials and tribulations of a

new bride at the Tomboy Mine, high above Telluride, Colorado, are passionate in their praise for it. Since the author died over twenty-five years ago it was presumed that there would never be a sequel. Fortunately for us, Fort Lewis College professor, Duane Smith, did an early review of *Tomboy Bride* in "Montana: The Magazine" for Western History in the 1970 summer issue. Harriet enjoyed the review, wrote Duane Smith, and began a correspondence with him that would last until her death in 1977 at the age of ninety-two. Over the years she sent him photographs, letters from her friends who had lived in Tomboy Basin, and most importantly she recounted additional tales (such as the trials of a new mother trying to breast-feed a baby at that altitude) that she had not put in the book. She also wrote about how she came to write the book and the obstacles she encountered in getting it published (the first edition was a self-published book). Professor Smith's book is not meant to replace *Tomboy Bride*, but rather to supplement it with a potpourri of information and photographs from Harriet and her friends, as well as observations from Duane Smith. *A Visit With the Tomboy Bride* takes us back again to another era and allows us to relive the adventurous life of a new bride thrust into an unfamiliar lifestyle. We can once more experience the grace with which she accepts her hardships and the love and commitment that she shares with her new husband and eventually her newborn child.

Just as the original, this book reflects a wonderful, spirited life high above timberline in the rugged San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado. If you enjoyed *Tomboy Bride* you will want to read the rest of the story in *A Visit With the Tomboy Bride*.

The Mining West: A Bibliography & Guide to the History & Literature of Mining the American & Canadian West

by Richard E. Lingenfelter



ISBN: 0-8108-4324-2

Binding: Hardcover, 2 volumes

Pages: 1540 pages,

Published: 2002

Price: \$245.00, \$4.00 shipping U.S., \$7.50 International

Publisher: Scarecrow Press, Inc. 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, Maryland 20706, (800) 462-6420 www.scarecrowpress.com

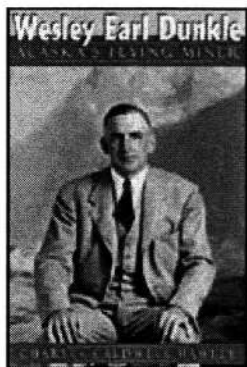
The history of mining the West has been explored and developed much less than the mines themselves. In fact, no book has been

written that encapsulates the overall history of mining in the American and Canadian West.

While there is a fantastic cache of materials on the history of mining, until now there was no one source that united these materials together. Concentrated in this necessary resource are published materials on all aspects of mining in the western United States and Canada; assaying over 25,000 articles, maps, pamphlets, books, literature, and lore.

This guide will both stimulate and facilitate new research by revealing not only what has been done, but what has yet to be done, and some of the potential sources that may be used to do it. Topics include: prospecting, stampedes and rushes, mines and mining camps, mining promotion and finance, labor and technology, mining laws and disputes, and literature and lore.

***Wesley Earl Dunkle:
Alaska's Flying Miner***
by Charles Caldwell Hawley



ISBN: 0-87081-723-X

Binding: Hardcover

Pages: 288 pages

Illustrations: 40 b&w photos

Published: 2003

Price: \$34.95, shipping \$4.50 (US)

Publisher: University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 206C, Boulder, CO 80303, 1 - 8 0 0 - 6 2 7 - 7 3 7 7 , www.upcolorado.com

New in the Mining the American West Series. In *Wesley Earl Dunkle: Alaska's Flying Miner*, Charles Caldwell Hawley tells the story of a pioneering miner and aviator who arrived in Alaska in 1910 equipped with an optimistic belief in the transformative power of technology. As a graduate of Yale's prestigious Sheffield Scientific School, Dunkle managed copper mines for such captains of industry as J. P. Morgan and the Guggenheims and developed what would eventually become Alaska Airlines.

In these pages, Hawley also paints a portrait of the disputed land that Dunkle came to call home. At the dawn of the twentieth century, Alaska was as important to the United States for its copper and coal as it is currently for oil and natural gas. Regulating access and use of these resources frequently ignited political wildfires that swept far beyond the boundaries of the territory. As Hawley demonstrates, Dunkle's life in Alaska spanned a large part of the region's early history under

the U.S. flag and provides valuable insight into the environmental, social, and economic changes wrought by industrial expansion and development.

The Glory Days in Goldfield, Nevada

by Sally Zanjani



ISBN: 0-87417-520-8

Binding: Cloth

Pages: 160 pages

Illustrations: 167 b/w photos, 16 illus.

Published: 2003

Price: \$31.95, shipping \$4.50 (US)

Publisher: University of Nevada Press, MS166, Reno, NV, 89557-0076, 877-682-6657, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu

Distinguished mining historian Sally Zanjani has a personal connection to Goldfield—her father was one of thousands who went there to seek his fortune. In this book, Zanjani tells the colorful history of the town, enhancing her story with the personal accounts of many of its residents. The result is an exceptionally readable narrative of an exceptional place.

Goldfield developed first as a rough mining camp after the dis-

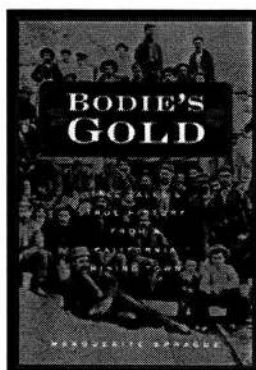
covery of gold in 1902, but quickly it included modern stamp mills, an array of saloons and brothels, a lively business district, and a population of widely diverse backgrounds and habits. The arrival of the railroad brought access to the culture and luxuries of the wider world, and gold created the fortunes to enjoy them. But there were families here as well, mothers and children, homes, schools, and churches. There were also single women seeking a livelihood (respectable or not), crooks of many persuasions, politicians with a range of agendas, some less than honorable, and working men of many backgrounds, all hoping to strike it rich. By 1919 the gold rush was over—the ore bodies were exhausted and most of the population left for greener pastures. A disastrous fire in 1923 destroyed much of what was left.

Today's Goldfield is a mere shadow of its halcyon self, but Zanjani's engaging recounting of its story brings this last western gold-rush town to life again as the town celebrates the centennial of its founding. Lavishly illustrated with more than 150 remarkable period photographs, many from private collections and never before published, *The Glory Days in Goldfield* will delight readers and preserve the history of one of Nevada's most important and vibrant mining centers.

* * *

Bodie's Gold

By Marguerite Sprague



ISBN: 0-87417-511-9

Binding: Cloth

Pages: 264 pages

Illustrations: 77 b/w photos, 1 map

Published: 2003
Price: \$34.95, shipping \$4.50 (US)

Publisher: University of Nevada Press, MS166, Reno, NV, 89557-0076, 877-682-6657, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu.

The Bodie Mining District was established in 1860 after the discovery of several small gold deposits in the area. The big boom did not begin until 1878, however, when new discoveries and the arrival of highly capitalized mining companies made possible the exploitation of Bodie's significant mineral wealth. For a time, the town's population grew by ten people a day, the mines extracted several million dollars worth of gold, and Bodie flourished. What grew there was in many ways a collection of contradictions—an isolated town in the midst of the Eastern Sierra high desert, dusty in summer and

frigid in winter, but for a time endowed with such urban amenities as first-class restaurants, lavish hotels, and the latest in ladies' fashions. Bodie was both a rough mining camp, which had for a time the highest murder rate in the U.S., and a town where ordinary families lived secure and contented lives, and a highly respectable social network supported cultural programs and charitable works.

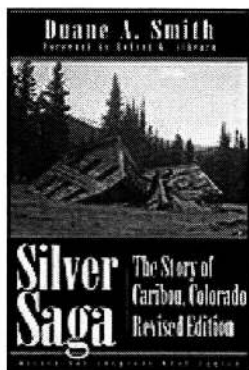
Sprague's account covers all the details of Bodie life—the mines and the working conditions of the miners; the demimonde of saloons and brothels; the schools, churches, and other institutions of settled life; the lives of its residents, including the native Kuzedika Indians and the Chinese; the role of women in the economy and in local society; and the experiences of the children. The boom ended in 1880, and the town began its long, slow decline, surviving into the twentieth century as a small town supported by a few small but steady mines. Mining ended with World War II, and the last permanent residents moved away. What remained of the town was named a California state park in 1964.

Enhanced with numerous historic photographs and quotations from newspapers of that period, as well as by the reminiscences of former residents, *Bodie's Gold* is lively reading, a vivid account of the life that once throbbed

behind the now-closed doors and empty streets of California's official Gold Rush ghost town.

Silver Saga: The Story of Caribou, Colorado, Revised Edition

by Duane A. Smith



ISBN: 0-87081-729-9

Binding: Paperback

Pages: 240 pages

Illustrations: 6 x 9, 41 b&w photographs, 3 maps, 1 line drawing

Published: 2003

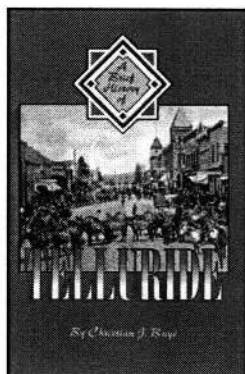
Price: \$21.95, \$4.50 shipping and handling

Publisher: University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 206C, Boulder, CO 80303, 1 - 8 0 0 - 6 2 7 - 7 3 7 7 , www.upcolorado.com

Caribou, known as "the place where winds were born," was a lucrative Colorado mine that generated an estimated eight million dollars worth of revenue and gave rise to Colorado's nickname as the "Silver State." Lo-

cated at 9800 feet, Caribou was originally the Arapahoe's "Treasure Mountain." After its discovery by white miners, Caribou's population grew and dwindled along with silver extraction. In this new revised edition, Colorado historian Duane Smith gleams history of this important silver mining town.

A Brief History of Telluride by Christian Buys



ISBN: 1-890437-83-2

Binding: Softcover

Pages: 88 pages

Illustrations: 84 photographs

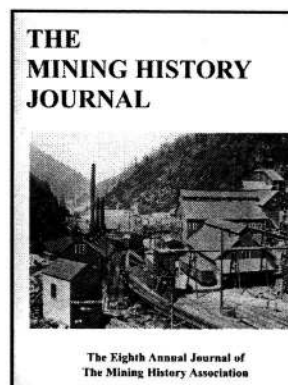
Published: 2003

Price: \$9.95, shipping free

Publisher: Western Reflections Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1647, Montrose, Colorado 81402-1647, 800-993-4490, www.westernreflections.pub.com, email westref@montrose.net

A Brief History of Telluride concisely chronicles the boom and bust cycles of Telluride, Placer-

ville, Ames, Ophir, and Rice from the 1860s to the present. Every page brings to life those fascinating, former days: the arrival of the first prospectors, the tragic departure of the Utes, the booming mining era, Butch Cassidy's bank robbery, avalanches, miner's strikes, the rise and fall of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, and the bare-bones beginning of the ski industry. Meet fascinating residents like Lucien Nunn, who almost single-handedly saved Telluride's mining industry with the first commercial use of alternating-current electricity in the world.



All back issues of the *Mining History Journal*, either as original bound volumes or as photocopies, are available for purchase. Each copy costs U.S. \$10 in the U.S., and U.S. \$15 internationally. Please address orders to the editor: Eric Clements, Department of History, MS2960, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, USA.

*Mining History Association
Colorado School of Mines Library
1400 Illinois St.
Golden, CO 80401*

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Mining History Association

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Colorado School of Mines Library
1400 Illinois St.
Golden, CO 80401
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