

# Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

September, 2003



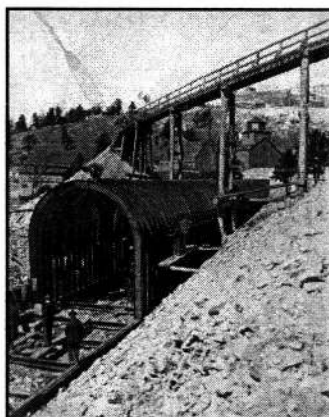
Volume 14, Number 3

## Researching an Instant Tunnel

Congratulations and many thanks to the Nominating Committee for coming up with a great slate of Officers for 2004. This difficult, but vital job, was compounded by the confusion resulting from the last printed edition of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (original) which did not reflect changes made through the years in various election procedures, etc. Thanks to the working committee headed by Jeremy Mouat and Ron Brown, the original documents are being reviewed along with the 10 years of changes and will be ready by the 2004 conference to present to the MHA Board for approval. The task is not a small one but as our membership expands, it becomes critical that we are all working from the same current pages.

Just as confusion reigns in organizational procedures when the situation is not "confused" with all of the facts, so can it reign in historical mining research without all of the facts. A case in point, mostly due to the amateur researcher but which may still illustrate the point, is

the Steel Tunnel in the Cripple Creek Mining District, perhaps one of the few real tunnels by definition in the district and sometimes referred to as the "instant" tunnel.



Western History Dept., Denver Public Library

The Portland Mine solved many of its land issues by buying out the other side, chiefly solving a myriad of apex suits with less lawyer welfare. However, they failed to consider an existing right of way for the Golden Circle Railway, a subsidiary of the Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad. When President Burns of the Portland decided to start a waste dump to the west of his Portland No. 2 shaft, he was challenged by the railroad company who was

ready to lay track through that area to continue their rails to the Ajax, around Battle Mountain and on to the town of Independence.

Portland President, Jimmy Burns, would not grant permission to the railroad as he felt that they had charged exorbitant rates to haul his ore to the mill. However, in 1898, a compromise was finally reached that required the rail line to "build a tunnel" along the right-of-way through the area where the Portland wanted to dump waste rock. This was accomplished by erecting steel arch sets on two-foot centers, standing on steel beams supported by cast-iron pilings sunk into the ground. The arch sets were then covered with 3-inch timbers and tons of waste rock piled over the 242-foot long instant tunnel. The arch was large enough to accommodate the narrow gauge steam engines used on the route. Upon completion, rail traffic could run through the tunnel regardless of the waste rock dumped above. The project was of such interest, the *Engineering News* described in detail the structural components and reported the cost at about \$50 per lineal foot.

The tunnel was in use until 1917 when the Golden Circle track system was changed to standard gauge. Unfortunately, the steel sets were not large enough to pass the larger locomotives and the tunnel was abandoned. In the meantime, the waste dump had increased in size enough to permit a by-pass to be constructed eliminating the need for the tunnel.

When I first came to the district, I had read a little about the tunnel and felt that one of the sets would be an outstanding exhibit for the local museum. The rough location was easily determined by old maps and the existence of a short section of the right-of-way. The question arose, should

we use a large back hoe to excavate down to the sets or should we be more conservative and drill a few holes first to determine the exact position and depth? Before this was resolved, additional research revealed that the sets had been salvaged in the 1920s for scrap.

Had I done full and proper research in the beginning, there never would have been need for organizing the recovery work for a steel set. Thirty-five years later, had I done full and proper research, I would have found that changes had been made to the original MHA Bylaws and Articles, and the Nomination Committee would not have had the anguish and soul-searching that they underwent to come up

with the excellent slate of Officers that they did. In the time saved, the committee could have written their own papers for the 2004 conference and had them in the mail to Eric Clements by now.

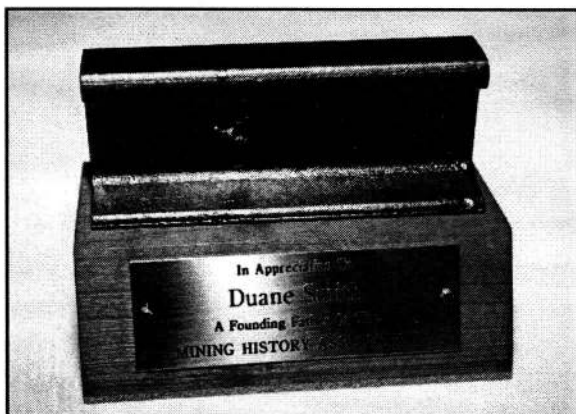
Bottom line, complete your research before you fly off changing and revising history.

May you stand in ore and your labours be in vein!

Ed Hunter, MHA President

## Founding Fathers Receive Award

The six "founding fathers" of the Mining History Association were given awards of appreciation at the recent annual conference in Cripple Creek, Colorado. The six consisted of Mike Ostrogorsky, Clark Spence, Ron Brown, Carlos Schwantes, Bob Spude, and Duane Smith. MHA was founded by this illustrious group of historians in a suite at the Ramada Hotel in Wichita, Kansas in October of 1988, attending the 28th annual conference of the Western History Association. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Mike Ostrogorsky, please let Ed Hunter know so he can send him his award.



*Each award consists of a piece of 8 lb. mine rail from the Cresson mine mounted on cherry wood.*



*MHA President Ed Hunter presenting the awards to Duane Smith, Bob Spude, and Ron Brown.*

## FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION



FARMINGTON, MISSOURI  
JUNE 17-20, 2004

The fifteenth annual conference of the Mining History Association will be held in the heart of the old Missouri lead belt, on 17 to 20 June 2004. The conference will take place at Farmington, Missouri, and will include tours of the old St. Joseph Lead Company works at Missouri Mines State Historic Park in Flat River, and the historic Bonne Terre underground lead mine at Bonne Terre. The Sunday tour will visit the nation's largest lead smelter, operated by the Doe Run Company at Herculaneum, Missouri, and Knight Hawk Coal Company's surface mine and barge loading facility in Illinois.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

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**.

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



Plan to attend  
MHA's Mining History Breakfast  
7:00 am, Thursday, October 9, 2003  
43rd Annual WHA Conference  
Renaissance Worthington Hotel  
Fort Worth, Texas

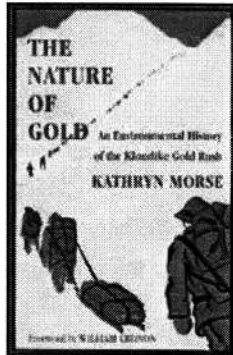




## New Books

### *The Nature of Gold, An Environmental History of the Klondike Gold Rush*

by Kathryn Morse



**ISBN:** 0-295-98329-9

**Binding:** Cloth

**Pages:** 304 pages

**Illustrations:** 52 illus., 7 maps

**Published:** 2003

**Price:** \$29.95, plus \$4.00 shipping (US), Washington State residents add 8.8% tax

**Publisher:** University of Washington Press, P.O. Box 50096, Seattle WA, 98145 - 5096, 1-800-441-4115, Fax: 1-800-669-7993, [uwpord@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwpord@u.washington.edu), [www.washington.edu/uwpress/](http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/)

In 1896, a small group of prospectors discovered a stunningly rich pocket of gold at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers, and in the following two years thousands of individuals traveled to the area, hoping to find wealth in a rugged and challenging setting. Ever since that time, the Klondike Gold Rush - especially as portrayed in photographs of long lines of gold seekers marching up Chilkoot Pass - has had a hold on the popular

imagination.

In this first environmental history of the gold rush, Kathryn Morse describes how the miners got to the Klondike, the mining technologies they employed, and the complex networks by which they obtained food, clothing, and tools. She looks at the political and economic debates surrounding the valuation of gold and the emerging industrial economy that exploited its extraction in Alaska, and explores the ways in which a web of connections among Amer-

ica's transportation, supply, and marketing industries linked miners to other industrial and agricultural laborers across the country. The profound economic and cultural transformations that supported the Alaska-Yukon gold rush ultimately reverberate to modern times. The story Morse tells is often narrated through the diaries and letters of the miners themselves.



### *A History of the Edwards Zinc Mines*

By Stuart Casanova

A comprehensive history of the Edwards mine, St. Lawrence Co., NY, based on interviews with local miners, managers, and geologists has recently been written by Stuart Casanova and published by the Edwards History Center. It includes a brief

year by year account of mine development, production, and personnel from company annual reports for the years 1926 through 1980. The Edwards mine was operated from 1909 to January 23, 1981, and produced 6,567,000 tons of ore averaging

10.31% Zn.

The 55 page report includes maps, photos, and cross sections and can be purchased from the Edwards History Center, Town Hall, Edwards, NY 13635. Cost is \$7.00 plus \$3.50 p&h.

## New Cripple Creek History Group

The recently organized Cripple Creek Historians and Collectors Club (CCHCC) held its first field trip to the district July 11-13, 2003, which was a great success. Among the sites visited during the two days were the Roosevelt and Carlton tunnels as well as seven different mine sites. In addition, the group was treated to the world premier of a new video on the historic buildings of Cripple Creek titled "Phoenix Rising".

The board of directors held its

first meeting in Cripple Creek. Mike Hurtt of Wichita, Kansas was elected president, and Steve Antonuccio of Colorado Springs was elected secretary-treasurer. The board elected to incorporate the club and apply for non-profit, tax-exempt status. It was decided to set the club dues at \$25 per member but collecting dues was deferred until incorporation has taken place. The club publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Prospector*, and maintains its own website ([www.cripplecreekhistory.com](http://www.cripplecreekhistory.com)).

In addition, two projects are in the works. The first will be a book of biographies of well-known and lesser-known Cripple Creek figures. The second will be a book of the mines of the district. If you would like to join the CCHCC, check out the website or contact:

Mike Hurtt  
2512 W. 11th St. N.  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-650-4981  
[mike@cripplecreekhistory.com](mailto:mike@cripplecreekhistory.com)

## Research Opportunity

### Colorado Historical Society

**Position:** Research Fellow in Historical Archaeology

**Location:** Denver, Colorado

The Colorado Historical Society invites scholars in historical archaeology, mining history, or cultural geography to apply for a seven-month fellowship to prepare a dissertation or monograph, utilizing site information collected in 1994 from the historic Cripple Creek gold mining district. Select the specific topic, within the material culture, mining technology, and settlement patterns of nineteenth-century mining life; prepare monthly progress reports; deliver a professional conference paper; and submit a near-final draft report.

**Qualifications:** Pre-doctoral or postdoctoral status. Proficiency in Arcview. Valid driver's license. A background check will be part of the selection process. Complete job description available at [www.coloradohistory-oahp.org](http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org). This position is funded by a grant from the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company.

**Application Process:** Submit a letter of interest, vitae, and three reference names. This submission must be received by 4:30 p.m. October 15, 2003 at the Colorado Historical Society/Personnel, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203. E-mail applications unacceptable. Finalists will be asked to provide research plans by November 10, 2003.

**Contact:** Susan Collins, Colorado Historical Society/OAHP, 1300 Broadway, Denver CO 80203  
Phone: 303/866-3395

## National Mining Hall of Fame to Induct Six



The 16th Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet will be held at the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum on Saturday, September 13, 2003, in Leadville, Colorado. Guest speaker will be Rex Loesby and will be speaking on the Yule Marble Quarry. The following individuals will be inducted into the Mining Hall of Fame at this year's banquet:

**GEORGE O. ARGALL JR.**, who was an internationally famous mining engineer, technical mining editor and publisher. During his long career he visited, examined, and reported on mining operations in 66 countries. He took special pride in getting a story right. On his typewriter, George taped three words so he could always see them: "Accuracy, Accuracy, Accuracy.";

**JOHN F. "LEADVILLE JOHNNY" CAMPION**, whose energy, intelligence, and drive were key factors in advancing the mining industry in Leadville, Colorado during the late 1800's. He was among the first to adopt what was then state-of-the-art technology, including core drilling, to develop and extend the life of mines. He built a fortune in mining and contributed greatly to cultural activity in Colorado;

**JAMES M. GERSTLEY** brought financial acumen, diplomatic skills, and management expertise to the United States Borax & Chemical Corporation and its predecessor, Pacific Coast Borax (PCB) during crucial years for the company from 1933 to 1961. English born, James Gerstley started with PCB as an assistant to the President in 1933. He became a U.S. citizen in 1938 and rose to the position of President of PCB in 1950;

**CHARLES R. NAILLER** was the driving force behind the massive improvement in underground coal productivity achieved during the 1940s, 50's and 60's at Consolidation Coal and throughout the coal industry. While he was with Consol, mine productivity improved from well under 10 tons per man day to in excess of 20 tons per man day. Nailler's leadership played a key role in the development of off-track mining, continuous mining, and longwall mining;

**EDWIN NOEL (PENNE) PENNEBAKER** built a world-wide reputation as a geologist in the United States, Africa, Australia, and the Caribbean. He devised innovative exploration programs for porphyry copper, vein pattern, and strata-bound ore deposits. He studied and helped develop major producing properties in Nevada and Arizona. He was an expert on the Coeur d'Alene District; and

**RUSSELL L. WOOD**, who was a consummate mining engineer. He was dedicated to learning and to the use of new technology. The generous use of his resources for the benefit of the Colorado School of Mines and the communities in which he lived goes unmatched. His relationships with laborers and leaders of industry were sound, good-natured, and, most of all, successful.

For information about nominating someone for induction to The National Mining Hall of Fame for 2004, please contact Lane White, Nominations Chairman by e-mail: [lane@rmi.net](mailto:lane@rmi.net) or by fax: (303) 985-7681.

# MHA Election Ballot—2004 Candidates

## Vice-President/President Elect (vote for one)

☐ **Bob Weldin**

Bob Weldin graduated from the University of Idaho, College of Mines and did postgraduate work at Eastern Washington State University in geology. He worked for 30 years with the US Bureau of Mines and authored several publications. He has been active in professional organizations in mining and geology, and has owned and operated Miners Quest, a mining antiques and collectables business, since 1990. Bob has been a member of MHA since 1993.

## Council (vote for 2)

☐ **Jim Laushine**

Jim Laushine is a retired computer systems engineer who graduated from Regis College with a minor in history. He was born in Leadville, Colorado and now lives in Colorado Springs. Among his major interests are mining history and western history.

☐ **Erik Nordberg**

Erik Nordberg is the University Archivist and director of the Michigan Tech Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections at Houghton. Erik has given papers at MHA meetings, served on the nominating committee, was a member of the program committee for the Bisbee conference, coordinated the 1997 MHA conference in Houghton, Michigan, served as a council member from 1999-2002, and received the John Townley Award for his paper *The Arizona & Michigan Mining Company, Globe District, Arizona Territory*. He is interested in Michigan investment and transfer to the new copper regions of the Far West.

☐ **John Stewart**

John Stewart is a new member of the Mining History Association, but a long time member of the Denver Mining Club. He is an attorney specializing in mining and mineral law. Recently, however, he went back to CU Denver and was awarded a Masters in history in 2002, in the process writing a Koch award winning thesis on the life of Thomas Walsh. John's field of emphasis is western mining history.

☐ **Bob Trennert**

Bob Trennert is professor of Western History at Arizona State History. With a long time interest in mining technology and railroads, he is a charter member of the MHA, a past program chair, and in 1997 served as president of the Association. In addition to an extensive background in mining history, he is one of the Editors for the University Press of Colorado's Mining in the American West Series. His most recent book is *Riding the High Wire: Aerial Mine Tramways in the West*.

**Please mail completed ballot by November 15, 2003 to:**

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

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



## *Mining History Association*

Mining History Association  
Colorado School of Mines Library  
1400 Illinois St.  
Golden, CO 80401  
Web: [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)

Ed Hunter, president  
Ron Brown, vice-president  
Jeremy Mouat, past-president  
James E. Fell, Jr., treasurer  
Robert Sorgenfrei, membership  
Mark Vendl, secretary  
Eleanor Swent, council member, 2001-2003  
Chris Huggard, council member, 2001-2003  
Ruth Ann Gardner, council member, 2002-2004  
James McBride, council member, 2002-2004  
James Sell, council member, 2002-2004  
Silvia Pettem, council member, 2003-2005  
Duane Smith, council member, 2003-2005  
Eric Clements, journal editor  
Chris Huggard, book review editor  
Mark and Karen Vendl, newsletter editors