

Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

December 2003



Volume 14, Number 4

MHA 2003: Year in Perspective

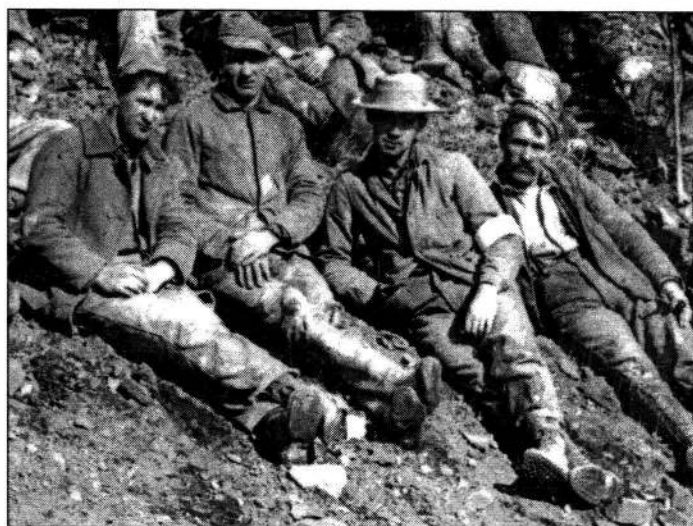
As we ring in 2004, Ron Brown becomes our President and Bob Weldin, our Vice President or President-elect, and as a result of our recent election, congratulations to our two new Council members, Erik Nordberg and Bob Trennert.

In June, we will leave the Western United States for the second time to meet in Farmington, Missouri, where we can discover a whole new era in the MHA's history. Already we have been asked to submit abstracts to the versatile author and crestfallen Cubbies fan, Program Chair, Duane Smith by December 31, 2003. It is imperative that we abide by the date to avoid disappointments in the schedule as we had at the past conference. **PUT THE ABSTRACT IN WRITING!** This will be of immeasurable help to the Program Committee.

The end of the year is a time to reflect on the year's activities. Ron Brown and Jeremy Mouat graciously agreed to review our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to be sure that they reflect any changes we have made through the years. This is not to fault these original documents, for they have served us well for nearly 15 years, but it is prudent to have periodic reviews. In addition to the 183 attendees at our conference in Cripple Creek, some members attended the MHA breakfast at the Western History Association this fall. At least three MHA members had books published on subjects of great interest. Charles C. Hawley's *Wesley Earl Dunkle, Alaska's Flying Miner*, Journal Editor Eric Clements' *After the Boom in Tombstone and Jerome, Arizona* and Ron Limbaugh co-

authored *Calaveras Gold*. Numerous articles have also been published including Richard Francaviglia's article in the recent issue of *Matrix* magazine on the Copper Breaks area in Texas, and Johnny Johnsson's addendum to a previous article on the Patapsco Mines in the same issue. This year's Rodman Paul Awards were made to Lysa Wegman-French and to Elliott West. In addition, MHA established the Clark Spence Award as a biennial award for the outstanding book on mining history.

Some of the advice and counsel contributed by our former Presidents in their Newsletter columns are very timely today as we pursue mining history. I have listed a few items that we might think about as MHA moves ever forward. Clark Spence told us of relatively unknown archives that possess much infor-



Silvia Pettem and Ed Raines

Gold Hill, Colorado miners ca. 1890s. See page 4 for details of upcoming MHA mini-conference to Gold Hill.

mation of interest. Stan Dempsey recommended that the membership collect the history of the 1950's and 1960's now, while the participants of that period are still alive and the artifacts still available. Duane Smith pointed out that we must keep abreast of current mining practices using, for example, heap leaching's use that ballooned in Nevada in the 1980's, as one of the current practices that will be tomorrow's history.

Current laws on mine reclamation were cited by Noel Kirshenbaum as an additional reason to record what we can now, for those laws and regulations require mining companies to obliterate much of our mining past. Bob Trennert opened the door to the overlooked use and importance of aerial trams in the mining world. Sally Zanjani described some outrageous incidents in mining company affairs that belonged to the 1890's except that they happened in the last few years. Again, this is current mining history that should be captured while we have the participants and incidents fresh in our minds. Sure, these do not qualify as history today, at least by the 50 year rule, but they are here and now. Surely, recording examples like these today will give future generations a truer picture of mining, including the blemishes, than the few records of ancient mining procedures by Greek historians who wrote two or three hundred years after the fact.

Don Hardesty, in addition to his extensive stress on the need for preservation, pointed out that we cannot

just rely on previously written material in our research, for the writer or writers may have had a prejudiced or less than accurate viewpoint. Rather, we need to combine those records with any archeological data available and, where possible, oral histories. Richard Graeme reminded us that our MHA annual conferences are a wonderful and valuable place to exchange ideas and learn of new activities BUT only if we attend! Richard Francaviglia's columns challenged us to look at diverse sources of information for more understanding of mining history. These included, among other things, mine dumps, mine and other maps and the background for claim names. Jeremy Mouat expanded our horizons by suggesting new fields of research for mining history with examples. In particular, he pointed, as had others, to the broad field of globalization of the mining industry. As we see more and more mining of the vital materials that our society needs conducted overseas, we will need to set our sights beyond our borders as well as within our borders for recording and helping to preserve that history. The ball is in our court!

Although I have received only a few comments on the MHA ten-year goals and other suggestions, one has already taken wings. Ed Raines and Sylvia Pettem have organized the MHA field trip and mini-conference as described elsewhere in this newsletter. Could this be the start of regional chapters that have been talked about for members who want more of mining history?

It was a real pleasure to see that Stan Dempsey received a long overdue honor with his award from the Mining Foundation of the Southwest for his many contributions to the mining industry and to mining history with his books, articles and service.

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

Ed Hunter

The *Mining History News* is published quarterly by the Mining History Association. It is sent to MHA members who also receive the annual *Mining History Journal*. MHA is an organization of individuals interested in the history of mining and metallurgy. Annual membership: general \$25, international \$35, sustaining \$50, patron \$100, and corporate \$500. Send check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the Mining History Association, Colorado School of Mines Library, 1400 Illinois St., Golden, CO 80401.

Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Mark and Karen Vendl, 1136 Kemman Ave., La-Grange Park, IL, 60526; email: mkvendl@earthlink.net

Deadlines: March issue: February 15
 June issue: May 15
 September issue: August 15
 December issue: November 15

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, the historic Bonne Terre underground lead mine at Bonne Terre, the nation's largest lead smelter, operated by the Doe Run Company at Herculeum, Missouri, and Knight Hawk Coal Company's surface mine and barge loading facility in Illinois.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The program committee for the Missouri meeting invites proposals for individual presentations 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**

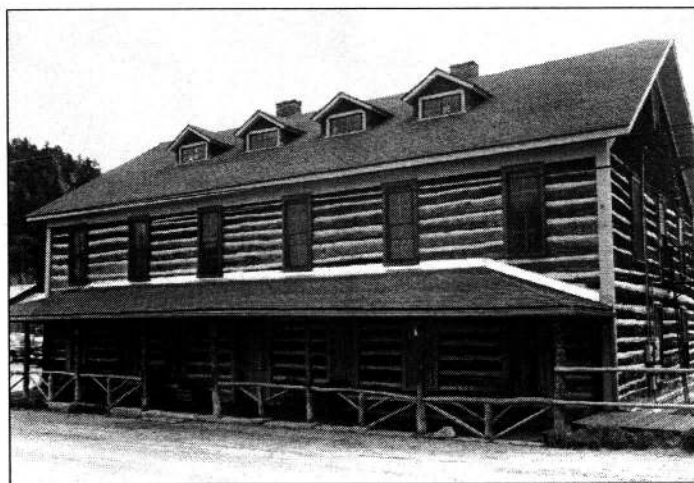
Colorado MHA Mini-Conference

Boulder County MHA members Silvia Pettem and Ed Raines are planning a MHA mini-conference for Gold Hill, Boulder County, Colorado, August 13 - 15, 2004. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of a Colorado Chapter that will meet in various mining communities in Colorado in future.

Gold Hill was the first mining district in Colorado and is located 12 miles west of Boulder. It is small, unspoiled, beautiful, and rich in mining history. It's also within 1 1/2 hours of Denver International Airport.

Tentative plans for the conference are as follows. People will arrive any time after noon on Friday August 13th. The entire Bluebird Lodge (a rustic hotel built in 1875) has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. There are 9 guest rooms (with men's and women's baths down the hall), several living/sitting rooms for vendors, a dining room for coffee/tea and breakfasts, and lots of charm. Modern accommodations are available in Nederland and Boulder, each approximately 1/2 hour drive away.

Friday afternoon will be set aside for self-guided walking tours of the town, as well as visits to the town's museum and cemetery. Friday evening will include a buffet dinner, followed by slide presentations at the museum, with Ed and Silvia talking about the mining history of the area.



Conference Headquarters, Bluebird Lodge, Gold Hill, Colorado



Gold Hill, Boulder County, Colorado, Photo 1947

Saturday will include a continental breakfast at the lodge, then box lunches will be picked up at the Gold Hill General Store. Ed will lead a day of field trips. Attendees will carpool and go to the Snowbound mine (an old shaft house with everything intact, even the miner's boots still hanging from the ceiling), hopefully the Modoc Mill (a 30-stamp mill that has been exceptionally well-preserved), and several other Boulder County sites. This will be followed by a Saturday evening banquet at the Gold Hill Inn. This building is next door to the Bluebird Lodge and serves excellent 5-course gourmet dinners.

Sunday morning will again begin with a continental breakfast, pick up box lunches, and then carpool to Caribou. At Caribou, MHA member Tom Hendricks will take the group underground in his Cross Mine. Duane Smith will give a slide presentation at the Cross mine on Caribou, and then will be our guide to the town-site.

The conference will be limited to 40 people, due to car-pooling, meeting room space, and meal accommodations. We realize that we may not be able to accommodate everyone who wants to come, but we want to be fair. Therefore, registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis (with deposit) after more detailed information is sent out in the next MHA newsletter.

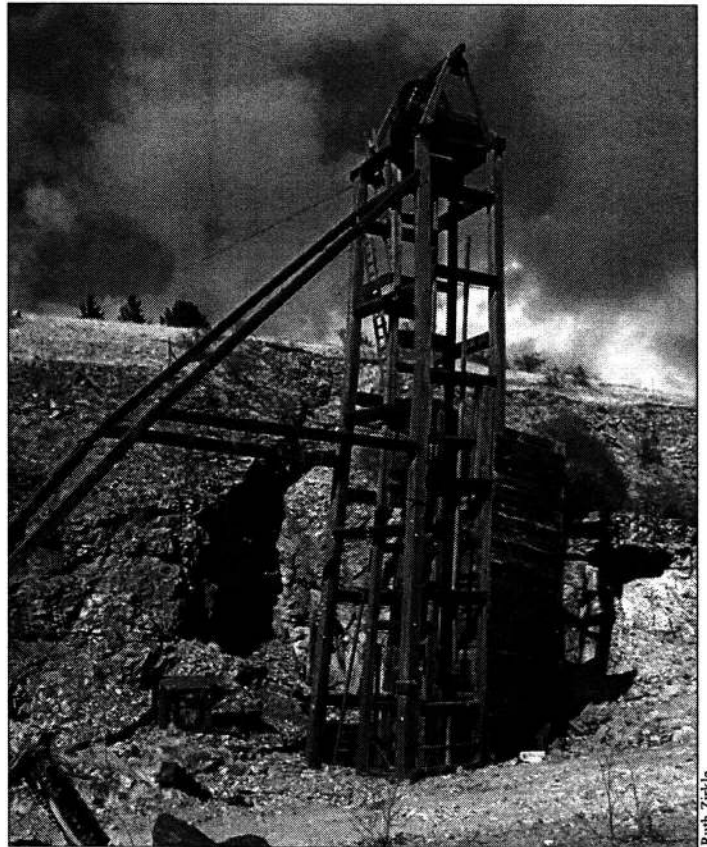
Gold King Headframe

The Gold King Headframe in Poverty Gulch will be saved for future generations thanks to a State Historical Fund (SHF) grant awarded to The Southern Teller County Focus Group (STFCG). The \$32,000 grant, matched with \$30,000 of City of Cripple Creek Historic Preservation Funds, will allow the headframe, on the site of Bob Womack's original discovery of gold, to be stabilized and refurbished.

The STFCG applied for the historical grant last spring, after receiving the support of the City of Cripple Creek Historic Preservation Commission and City Council. The project is made possible with the cooperation of Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company (CC&V), the owner of the property.

The grant includes the stabilization of the headframe, which can be viewed from the Gold Camp Trail which leads from Cripple Creek up through Poverty Gulch to near the Hoosier Mine. There will also be a spur from the main trail to a vantage point for better viewing of the headframe along with an interpretative sign explaining the structure's history and stabilization.

The headframe has been in place since the 1920s. The original headframe that hoisted men and ore from the El Paso Gold King Mine was moved to the Hoosier Mine which can be seen from County



Ruth Zirkle

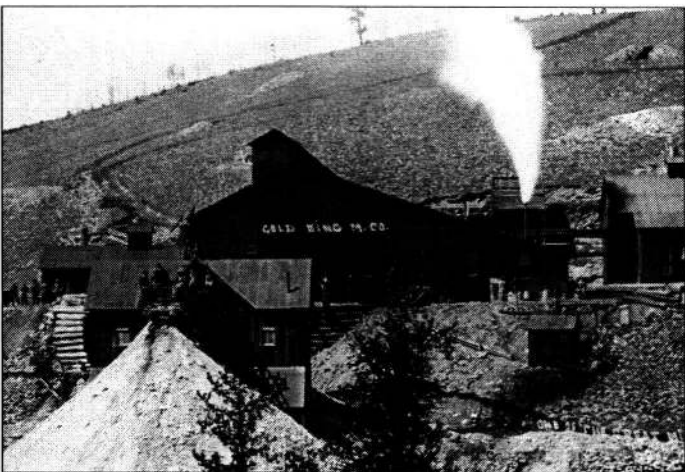
Current photograph of the Gold King Headframe.

Road 83 near the Gold Camp Trailhead. The current headframe was built sometime in the early 1920s and served the mine until it was closed in 1958. Womack discovered gold on the site, called the El Paso lode, in October of 1890.

CC&V has generously allowed public access to the area via the Gold Camp Trail. The mining company is also funding the archaeological study required for the grant project.

The STFCG is a non profit organization dedicated to positive community development in Southern Teller County. This is the fifth SHF grant the group has sought and received for projects.

For more information about the STFCG and its projects, contact Ed Hunter at 719-689-2765, Jane Mannon at 719-689-4044 or Ruth Zirkle at 719-689-2675 or visit www.web-xpres.com/stcfg.htm.



Mark and Kreen Vondt

Early photograph of the Gold King Mining Company.

Sixth International Mining History Congress

The Sixth International Mining History Congress was held 26 - 29 September in Akabira City, Hokkaido, Japan. Like the earlier international gatherings, participants had the opportunity to hear a wide range of papers. There were talks on mines in nearly every corner of the world, and from the very early period right up to the present. The Mining History Association was well represented and those of us who attended were touched by the kindness and generosity of our Japanese hosts. There was quite literally a big party for us every night. The other experience that proved quite moving was the earthquake that greeted our arrival.

Many of the papers can now be viewed – along with some photographs from the Congress – on the Congress website (<http://imhc2003.com/>). While the papers were all of a high standard, those on Japanese mining were particularly interesting. As a number of our Japanese colleagues explained to us, mining was pursued deliberately as part of the modernizing project during the Meiji period (from 1868). Few other

regions during the nineteenth century chose mining in such a fashion, as part of a strategy to achieve industrialization. American mining engineers were often recruited to assist in the task of establishing or renovating particular mines, a process described in detail by one of the fascinating papers on this broader topic. Overall the congress encouraged us all to think about mining history in a much larger context, and to see mining as an activity that took place not just in our own corner of the world, but also in other cultures and often in very different circumstances.

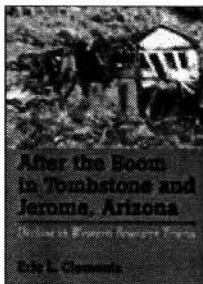
At the conclusion of the Congress, a business meeting was held, as a result of which a call has gone out for proposals for a venue for the 2006 International Mining History Congress.

Jeremy Mouat

New Books

After the Boom in Tombstone and Jerome, Arizona: Decline in Western Resource Towns

by Eric L. Clements



Tombstone was the site of one of the great silver bonanzas of the nineteenth century, a boom that started in the late 1870s and was over by 1890. Jerome's copper deposits were mined for much longer, beginning in the 1880s and enduring

until the 1930s. But when the mining booms ended, each town faced its decline in similar ways.

Clements describes the towns at their peaks, the nature of the mines and the diverse populations that came to work in the mines or in the business of the

towns, the development of civic organizations and amenities like libraries, and the role of mining companies. The process of decline was more complex than superficial histories have indicated, and Clements discusses the role of labor unions in trying to stave off collapse, the changing demography of decline, the nature and expression of social tensions, the impact on institutions such as churches and schools, and the human responses to continued economic depression. But bust involved more than a steady decline into ghost-town status, Clements discovers: the towns' remaining residents employed countless strategies to survive and reduce household expenses, and community organizations devel-

oped relief programs to help the most needy and wide efforts to diversify their economies. In the end, both towns reinvented themselves as late-twentieth-century tourist attractions.

After the Boom in Tombstone and Jerome, Arizona describes in vivid detail the decline of two major mining boomtowns. It also addresses significant questions about the nature of capital and settlement in the mining West, and about the characteristics of

town building and survival. This is a major contribution to the history and interpretation of the American West, meticulously researched, astutely argued, and extremely readable.

408 pages, 45 b/w photos, 4 maps, 2003 Cloth, 0-87417-571-2 \$29.95, \$4.50 shipping, University of Nevada Press, MS166, Reno, NV, 89557-0076, 877-682-6657, www.nvbooks.nevada.edu.

Call For Papers

Michigan's Copper Country: History, People & Place

Presentation proposals are being sought for a two-day symposium, to be convened July 1-2, 2004, in Houghton, Michigan, to coincide with the Copper Country Homecoming and Old Settlers Ball. Sessions will be held on the campus of Michigan Technological University.

The conference intends to engage different types of historical researchers, from the local region and elsewhere, highlight their research and knowledge, and encourage an interchange of ideas on the history, people and places that have shaped Michigan's historic copper mining district.

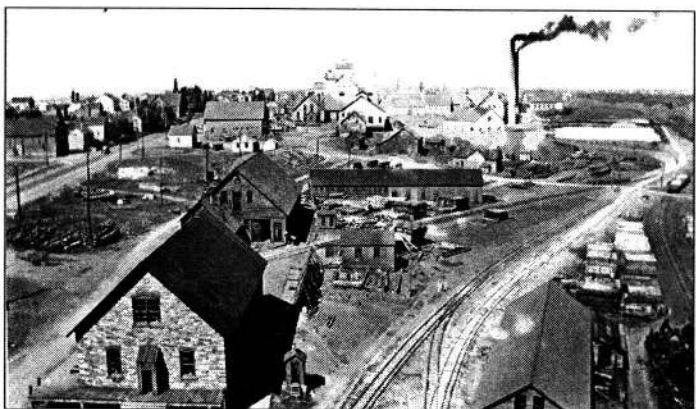
Speakers are sought to examine aspects of the culture, heritage and history of Michigan's "Copper

Country," a four-county region along the south shore of Lake Superior known for its native copper deposits and historic mining operations. The location of the symposium and larger weeklong events offer unique opportunities for an innovative program addressing the varying interests of attendees. Possible topics include archeology, labor, the environment, family and domestic issues, industry, technology, community, biography, ethnicity, architecture, Native America, and historic preservation.

Paper submissions should include a short presentation title, an abstract description of 200-250 words, and a current resume or biographical statement including telephone, mail and e-mail contact information.

Submissions must be postmarked by February 1, 2004, and must be sent to:

Erik Nordberg, Chair
Copper Country Symposium Program Committee
c/o MTU Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931
e-mail copper@mtu.edu
tel. 906-487-2505
fax. 906-487-2357



Quincy Mining Company, looking north from the Quincy No. 2 shafthouse toward the No. 6.

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