

# Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

June 2004



Volume 15, Number 2

Our meeting in Farmington, Missouri is now a month away. Eric and Barbara Clements report that the Thursday tour to the Herculaneum smelter and the Creek Paum mine is closed. As of Monday, May 18, sixty-three adults and several children had registered to attend the conference. Early registration closes on June 1, but on-site registration will be available throughout the conference. Please encourage friends and associates to join us in Missouri. If you haven't thought of visiting St. Louis as a part of this year's conference, you may want to add it to your travel plans. We are celebrating the bi-centennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and there will be special exhibits and events to commemorate this event.

Because we have a very busy schedule of events in Farmington, Eric Clements and I have agreed to combine the business meeting and a follow-up "vision for the future" conversation to provide guidance to the officers and the board in the coming year. I hope that you will make arrangements to participate in this conversation as we have several important issues to consider. One issue involves the planning and scheduling of our annual conferences. Our association has reached a point in its history when we may need to establish some general guidelines for where we will hold our annual conferences. Until now we have made annual assignments of many responsibilities, but we need to determine whether there are certain tasks that need more continuity. Until now our October meeting in conjunction with the Western History Association conference has provided those in atten-

dance with opportunities to share information about their research interests and to make awards to individuals who had not attended the June MHA conference. Should we encourage board attendance at the WHA meeting? Is this a time for an additional board conversation about issues that need post-conference consideration?

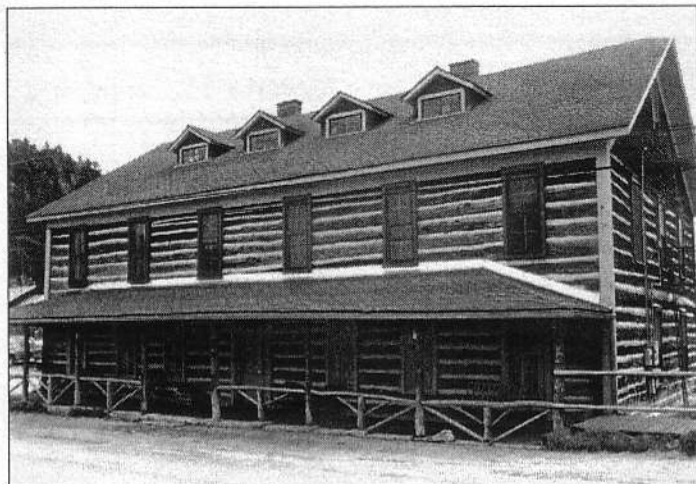
Similarly, I suggest that we discuss methods for increasing membership and participation in the MHA and the *Journal*. In reviewing our *Membership Directory 2003*, I noted major concentrations of members in the following states: Alaska (10), Arizona (26), California (28), Colorado (70), Nevada (19), New Mexico (19) and Washington (10). By contrast, historically important mining states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and West Virginia have relatively few members in the MHA. Are there actions that we can take to increase membership in these areas? If you have thoughts about what can be done to increase and broaden our membership base, please bring them to the "vision" conversation.

Next year we have agreed to take the conference to Pennsylvania for our first meeting east of the Appalachians. This should be an exciting opportunity to explore a different region and other mining experiences. Southwest Airlines has now entered the Philadelphia market and is expected to reduce fares to Philadelphia making travel to Pennsylvania more affordable for those traveling from our traditional base in the mountain west. I want to encourage all

continued on page 3...

# MHA GOLD HILL (BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO) MINI-CONFERENCE

Friday August 13-Sunday August 15, 2004



Conference Headquarters, Bluebird Lodge, Gold Hill, Colorado

The entire Bluebird Lodge (<http://www.goldhillinn.com/>), a rustic, late-19th century mountain hotel, has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights, and will serve as the conference headquarters. The Lodge is only open on the weekends, so if you want to come to the area earlier than Friday, or stay longer, you will need to find your own accommodations. There are only 9 guest rooms (*with men's and women's baths down the hall*). Nonetheless, the place has lots of charm and there are several living/sitting rooms with space for vendors. Prices are by room and the Bluebird conference 2-night package (including Continental breakfast) will be \$144 (total, no matter whether 1 or 2 people stay in the room). The Bluebird Lodge

obviously will not hold everyone. Other attendees can stay at the Best Western Lodge (303-258-9463) in Nederland (1/2-hour away) for a special MHA rate of \$89 (plus tax) per room per night.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Friday Afternoon:** arrive at the Blue Bird Lodge (Conference Headquarters); self-guided walking tour of Gold Hill; visit town museum and cemetery.

**Friday Evening:** informal buffet dinner at the Bluebird Lodge; slide lecture programs on Boulder County mining history at the Gold Hill Museum.

**Saturday All Day:** field trip to mines, sites, and ruins including Snowbound Mine shaft house, Wall Street Mill, and the partly restored 30-stamp Modoc Mill (box lunches furnished).

**Saturday Evening:** gourmet mountain dinner (six-course) at the Gold Hill Inn.

**Sunday until mid afternoon:** field trip to Caribou including underground tour of the Cross Mine, a slide lecture by Duane Smith, and a tour of the Caribou town-site (box lunches furnished).

## CONFERENCE COSTS

An all-inclusive registration fee of \$115 per person covers the use of the headquarters facilities, Friday night buffet (including wine and beer), box lunches for both field trips, and Saturday night dinner at the Gold Hill Inn (cash bar available); plus all slide programs, field trips and mine tour, a souvenir booklet, and handouts. Accommodations are extra.

Field trips will be by car pool, and while four wheel drive is not required, the roads are gravel and sometimes fairly rough. Also, we will need to limit the number of vehicles, so attendees will be asked to "double-up." Due to car-pooling, meeting room space, and meal accommodations, **THE CONFERENCE WILL BE LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE. REGISTRATION WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.** Send your registration form today!



## GOLD HILL MINI-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Enclosed is my check for **\$115 per person** to include all costs (except accommodations) for the Gold Hill Mini-Conference, August 13-15, 2004. *(In case the conference is full, your check will be returned.)*
- ☐ Yes, I would like to stay at the Blue Bird Lodge. **Please send a separate check in the amount of \$144** for the two nights. *(In case the Lodge is full, your check will be returned.)*

Both checks should be made payable to the **Mining History Association**. Registrants will receive additional information on accommodations and food choices, as well as driving directions and a map. Please address any conference questions to Ed Raines and Silvia Pettem, at 303-459-0193, or email [pettem@earthlink.net](mailto:pettem@earthlink.net).

- ☐ I am a vendor. (Vendors should make arrangements with Silvia Pettem at 303-459-0193, or email [pettem@earthlink.net](mailto:pettem@earthlink.net).)



Please send this registration form and check(s) to:

**Mark and Karen Vendl  
1136 Kemman Ave.  
La Grange Park, IL 60526**

...continued from page 1

members to consider making the trip to the Pennsylvania mining region in 2005. Jim McBride reported last year that Globe, Arizona was preparing a proposal for a meeting in 2006, and Juneau, Alaska has contacted me and asked to be considered as a future site in 2006 or 2007. These communities offer exciting possibilities for future conferences, but we will need to firm our plans for forthcoming conferences. If you have contemplated hosting a meeting in your state or community, please send that information to me or another member of the board so that we can discuss possible future sites for the MHA meeting.

*Ron Brown, MHA President*

### Membership Dues

Bob Sorgenfrei has received a great response from MHA members to the letter he sent in January to renew memberships and pay dues. More than 2/3 of our members have renewed so far. If you have not done so, please renew your membership by filling out the renewal form on page 7 and return it to Bob as soon as possible. If you are not sure if you are up to date, check out the mailing label on the back of this newsletter; it should read "2004". Also, please take this opportunity to encourage a friend or colleague to join MHA. Membership info can be found on our website:

**[www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)**

## Deadwood Historic Preservation Symposium

On March 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> the Second Annual Deadwood Historic Symposium was held in Deadwood, South Dakota. The Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, the Friends of the Case Library at Black Hills State University, and the Adams Museum & House, Inc. sponsored the symposium. It consisted of a guided tour of the Lead-Deadwood area on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, a day of talks at the Masonic Hall in Deadwood on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and a round table discussion on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

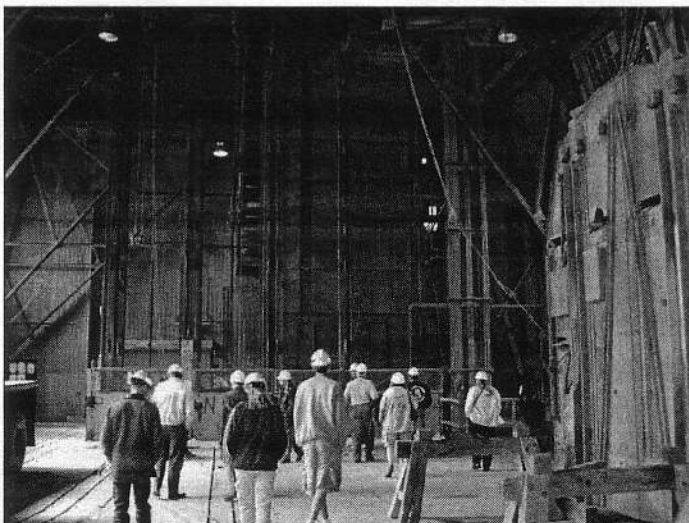
The guided tour started on Friday morning at 9:00 am at the Deadwood Visitors Center where we were split up into two groups. Each group got into their own Deadwood Trolley for the trip. One group was lead by David Wolff, of Black Hills State University in Spearfish, S.D., and the other by Jim Wilson, Deadwood, S.D.'s Historic Preservation Officer. The first stop was the Homestake Administration building where we walked through the Yates "Dry" building (miner's locker rooms), down the ramp to the Yates shaft. We then proceeded into the Yates Hoist building and then to the Yates headframe. We went back to the Administration Building where we were given a tour of the building and a small part of the Homestake Archives. Everyone then got back on the busses and headed

to the Black Hills Mining Museum where we enjoyed a pasty lunch. During the lunch we were able to tour the museum as well as the Homestake Opera House. After our time here was completed we got back on the busses and proceeded back to the Deadwood Visitors Center. For those people who were interested we walked across the street to the old Homestake Slime Plant. The building was built in 1906 by Homestake Mining Company to treat the slime portion of their tailings. It was designed by C. W. Merrill, who developed Homestake's cyanide gold recovery process. Since it is Deadwood's sole remaining gold mining building it is presently being developed into a casino and country music venue with the requirement that the outside of the building remain as close to original as possible.

The talks on Saturday were all interesting and involved quite a number of MHA members. Speakers included: Dawn Bunyak, "Early Twentieth-Century Flotation Milling in the American West"; Rich Clow, "Bald Mountain Mining Company"; Jay Fell, "Evolution of the Rocky Mountain Smelting Industry"; Jeff Buechler "Historic Mining Archeology in the Black Hills"; Alison Hoagland "Mining Houses for Meaning: A Look at Michigan with Implications for South Dakota"; Eric Clements, "For Sale: by Owner: Western Tourism and the Mining Town"; Cathleen Norman, "Buildings and Structures, and Mining Town Evolution"; Duane Smith, "The Evolution of the Homestake Mining Company"; and David Wolff, "Discarded Mining Equipment and its use in Milling". After the evening meal Tom Campbell gave a talk describing the history of the Homestake Mining Company and its Homestake Mine.

Congratulations should be given to all people involved in the organization and implementation of this symposium. This was the second symposium organized by the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission and hopefully the series will continue into the future.

*Thanks to Bob Otto for providing a summary of this meeting.*



*Walking tour inside the Yates Headframe.*

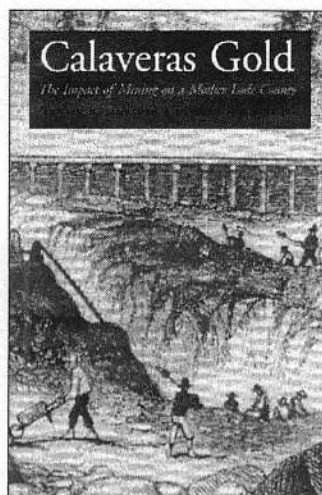
Bob Otto



## New Books

### *Calaveras Gold: The Impact of Mining on a Mother Lode County*

by Ronald H. Limbaugh and Willard P. Fuller Jr.



Mining in Calaveras County covered the full spectrum of technology from the earliest placer efforts through drift and hydraulic mining to advanced hard-rock industrial mining. Subsidiary industries such as agriculture, transportation, lumbering, and water supply, as well as a complex social and political structure, developed around the mines. The authors examine the roles of race, gender, and class in this frontier society; the generation and distribution of capital; and the impact of the mines on the development of political and cultural institutions. They also look at the impact of mining on the Native American population, the realities of day-to-day life in the mining camps, the development of agriculture and commerce, the occurrence of crime and violence,

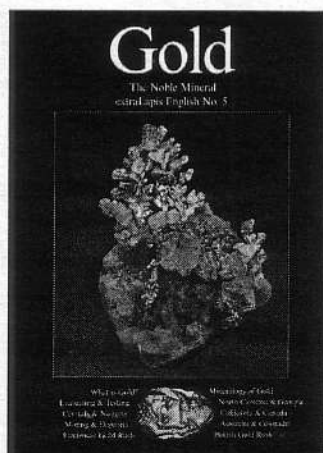
and the cosmopolitan nature of the population.

Calaveras County mining continued well into the twentieth century, and the authors examine the ways that mining practices changed as the ores were depleted and how the communities evolved from mining camps into permanent towns with new economic foundations and directions. Mining is no longer the basis of Calaveras's economy, but memories of the great days of the Mother Lode still attract tourists who bring a new form of wealth to the region.

*Calaveras Gold* is based on extensive research in manuscript collections, oral histories, and rare imprints, and includes numerous period photographs and other illustrations.

416 pages, 6 x 9.25 inches, 76 b/w photos, 6 maps, 2003, cloth, 0-87417-546-4 \$39.95, \$4.50 shipping, University of Nevada Press, MS166, Reno, NV, 89557-0076, 877-682-6657, [www.nvbooks.nevada.edu](http://www.nvbooks.nevada.edu).

### *Gold, The Noble Mineral, extraLapis English No. 5*



Eons before humans began extracting and pouring gold, nature was shaping a treasure of her own. Gold is found naturally in a variety of forms from microdust to placer nuggets to complex crystals. *Gold—The Noble Mineral* explores the world of native gold. Beginning with the basics of

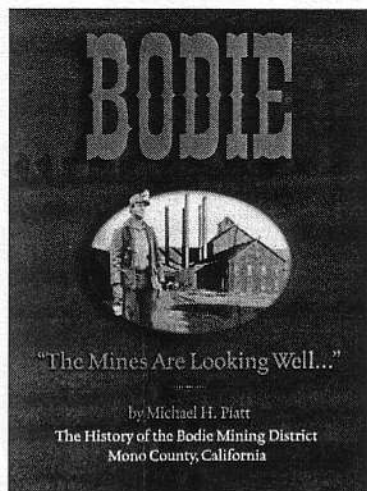
gold mineralogy and enrichment, our expert team of authors traces the history of gold and man from

the Egyptians to the modern-day, techno prospectors. Along the way, they describe localities, share stories and offer tips for evaluating specimens and avoiding fakes. Each article is lavishly illustrated with maps, diagrams and unforgettable, full-color photographs of some of the world's finest examples of crystallized gold. Of special note is the article by MHA member Ed Raines about the gold deposits at Farncomb Hill near Breckenridge, Colorado

112 pages, 2003, softcover, ISBN 0-971 5371-5-1, \$28.50 (includes shipping), Lapis International, LLC, P. O. Box 263, East Hampton, CT 06424, 860-267-1512, [www.lapisint.com](http://www.lapisint.com).

## Bodie: "The Mines are Looking Well..."

by Michael H. Piatt



More than a decade in the making, this important new work by Michael H. Piatt is the first book to tell the complete story of Bodie—from the arrival of prospector W. S. Bodey in 1859 to the quiet departure of the dying town's last residents in the 1950s. It

also includes 130 historic photographs, most never before published, that bring the town's compelling stories to life.

Tracing the rise and fall of six important mines, *Bodie: "The Mines are Looking Well..."* unfolds the history of Bodie from the perspective of the industry that determined the town's economy, culture and fate. Woven into this golden narrative are tales of life in a remote, rough-and-tumble community—lively accounts of fortunes made and lost, frontier

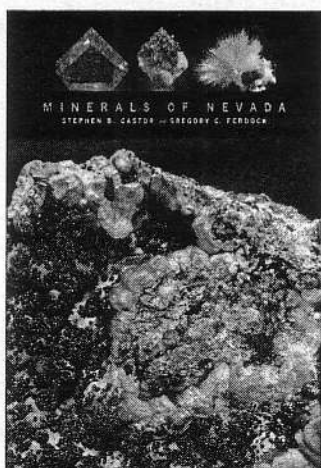
justice, union struggles, engineering marvels, stock market shenanigans, and the continuous battle of men and machines against the forces of nature. The sources used to uncover these dramatic stories include contemporary newspapers from Bodie and neighboring towns, mining journals, government reports, and other publications. Principal among eyewitness accounts are interviews with the late prospector, miner, and mill hand, Robert T. Bell, the last person to have worked in Bodie's underground.

In addition to its extensive photo collection, *Bodie: "The Mines are Looking Well..."* includes maps, sketches, detailed source notes, a comprehensive bibliography, a glossary of terms, and a concise introduction to western mining technology.

288 pages, 8 1/2" x 11", 130 photographs, maps, appendices and index, 2003, cloth: \$39.95, ISBN 0-9725200-5-28, paperback: \$29.95, ISBN 0-9725200-0-7, \$5.00 shipping & handling, North Bay Books, P.O. Box 21234, El Sobrante, CA 94820-1234, 800-870-3194, [www.northbaybooks.com](http://www.northbaybooks.com).

## Minerals of Nevada

by Stephen B. Castor and Gregory C. Ferdock



Gold and silver deposits spurred most of the settlement in Nevada in the nineteenth century; subsequently, minerals of many kinds have continued to bring wealth to the state. Modern, high-tech mining of gold deposits, such as those along the Carlin trend, constitutes a mining

boom that has surpassed the state's previous mineral production.

*Minerals of Nevada* is the first synoptic catalog of Nevada minerals, listing every mineral found in the state along with the places where each occurs. But the book is far more than a compendium. Included are engaging essays by several distinguished scientists and collectors that offer a geologic history of Nevada; a history of mining and mineral study in the state; descriptions of significant mineral-deposit types and mining districts; essays on meteorites, gemstones, and minerals first found in Nevada; and



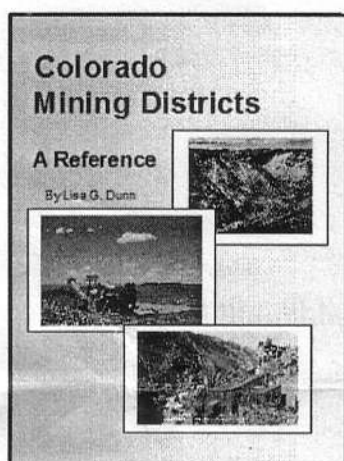
some tips for collectors. The book is lavishly illustrated with color photographs by Jeff Scovil, Sugar White, and others. A foldout map showing mining districts and important mineral occurrences is also included.

As a comprehensive survey of Nevada's mineral occurrences, *Minerals of Nevada* is an essential reference for geologists, mineral researchers, prospectors, and collectors. It is also recommended for any

reader interested in the natural resource basis for one of Nevada's major industries.

560 pages, 7 x 10 inches, 102 color photos, 3 maps, 2003, hardcover, ISBN 0-87417-540-2 \$75.00, \$4.50 shipping, University of Nevada Press, MS166, Reno, NV, 89557-0076, 877-682-6657, [www.nvbooks.nevada.edu](http://www.nvbooks.nevada.edu). Co-published with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

## ***Colorado Mining Districts: A Reference*** by Lisa G. Dunn



A compilation of mining districts in Colorado from the technical literature of the late 1800's to the present. Includes: over 800 entries on mining districts black & white illustrations of mines in selected mining districts, an index of min-

ing districts by county, and a bibliography of over 200 references.

364 pages, 2003, ISBN: 0-918062-19-5, Hard bound in plain tan buckram, price: \$50.00 (includes shipping & handling), make check or money order out to **Arthur Lakes Library, Colorado School of Mines**. Send to: Arthur Lakes Library, Document Delivery, Colorado School of Mines, 1400 Illinois St., Golden CO 80401 USA, 303-273-3899 or e-mail [libref@mines.edu](mailto:libref@mines.edu).

### 2004 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

To renew your membership in MHA, please fill out the information below and mail your check to Mining History Association, Colorado School of Mines Library, 1400 Illinois St., Golden, CO 80401. Thank you.

- ☐ General Membership \$25  
☐ International Membership \$35

- ☐ Sustaining Membership \$50  
☐ Patron Membership \$100

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Check if address, telephone, and email listing not for publication ☐ Check if any information above is new ☐

Mining History Association  
Colorado School of Mines Library  
1400 Illinois St.  
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## Mining History Association

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, email: [mkvendl@earthlink.net](mailto:mkvendl@earthlink.net)

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

Mining History Association  
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Web: [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)

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