



Summer/Fall 2014

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

From Steel to Presentations, Trinidad Conference Delivered

OK, first things first. Silvia's ankle is OK, even though her toes turned a really bizarre purple color. She wore a brace and ace bandage, did exercises consisting of spelling out the alphabet by signing with her toes, and occasionally got me to bring her a glass of wine or peel a grape. So, like the day sergeant said, "Be careful out there."

For those of you who missed the Trinidad conference, you missed the story of an often neglected chapter in Colorado Mining History. And for those attendees who missed the field trip to the Pueblo Steel Mill, you missed what was perhaps the most spectacular display of fireworks that any of us will ever view. It was so hot that we had to wear a coat! It was so loud that we had to wear ear plugs! It was so bright that we had to view it through a tinted filter!

So what was "it"? Well, "it" was a pour of some forty tons of molten iron/steel into a huge crucible. The heat radiated through our group and each of us was a likely candidate for a testimonial letter stating the benefits of our particular deodorant. The color was well up on the yellow scale to near white. And, as we stood there gawking at a spectacular volcanic display and began to realize what cacophony really means, this guy comes running out on a platform above the forty ton (or was it sixty?) furnace and crucible, and jabs away at the stuff with a pole. It was a long pole, and he was wearing a reflective suit, but the air temp up there was around 180 degrees F. When we were back outside, the tour guides said that "only new hires do that job." I guess so....

So the rest of the conference was conducted at room temperature and outside over several pleasant warm

summer days. The Thursday tour featured a car race up the Purgatoire River to the New Elk Mine with the tour leader finishing well back in the pack. And then we had a presentation by a guy who could talk more than I, without batting an eye.

Earlier we had looked at the Cretaceous-Tertiary Boundary Layer in which the impact debris of the Chicxulub Meteorite is preserved. According to some workers this ended the dinosaurs, but the reality is probably much more complicated. In any case, an outcrop that displays such a well-known event is not on every field trip, so each of us was lucky to have the chance to put a finger on such a fated rock.

Later we got a very good presentation explaining the production of coal-bed methane from the Raton Basin by Pioneer Natural Resources. Of course the presentation included an explanation of hydraulic fracturing as a part of the production process. It was well received and helped remind us that in the early days of hydrocarbon production, it actually was called MINING.

On Friday, many fine presentations added lots of information to each of our mental databases on the coal-iron dichotomy that dominated Colorado's 19th - 20th century mining of industrial mineral products. The sessions were highlighted by the panel discussion "Assessing Ludlow" which went a long way toward putting the massacre into the historical context of objectivity. So, at least from my point of view, we did our job as historians.

Trinidad... (continued on page 2)

Trinidad...

continued from page 1

Late in the day, the topics went further abroad, and by Saturday, we finished the sessions with our usual diversity that had something for everyone. We owe a round of applause to Steve Hart for the great job he did in putting together a fine MHA conference. We are all looking forward to our Silver Anniversary at Virginia City, and then Telluride, followed by Alaska.

Ed Raines
Golden, CO
eraines@mines.edu

2014 MHA Election Results

Terms began June 2014

President: **Ed Raines**

Vice President/President Elect: **William W. "Bill" Culver**

Council (2014-2017): **Greg Drew, Eric Nystrom**

Nominating Committee: **Dave Valentine**

MHA Creates New Mary Lee Spence Book Award

The MHA board in 2013 approved consideration of an award to recognize books that are edited works, compilations of documents (letters, previously unpublished manuscript reminiscences, oral histories), significant photograph histories, or related genres. The award would be named after Mary Lee Spence, editor of the John C. Fremont papers and other works. The MHA's Clark C. Spence Award Committee (David Wolff, Keith Long, and Bob Spude) was tasked with preparing a proposal for implementing the award.

Over the past two cycles of the Clark C. Spence Award, the award committee has recognized books that do not fit the Clark Spence Book Award's narrative history criteria, but were still worthy of special recognition. These works were exceptionally well compiled and edited collections of letters, single family narratives based on extensive oral history, other original documents, and photographs. The MHA Clark C. Spence Award Committee granted "Special Recognition" in 2013 to Ronald M. James and Robert E. Stewart, editors, *The Gold Rush Letters of E. Allen Grosh & Hosea B. Grosh* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2012), and in 2011 to Sheila Kelly, *Treadwell Gold, An Alaska Saga of Riches and Ruin*

(Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2010). The Mary Lee Spence Documentary Book Award will replace these "Special Recognitions."

Treasurer Jay Fell determined that there would be sufficient funds to establish the award on a biennial basis, and the MHA council voted to fix the monetary value of the award at \$500, which is the same as the Clark C. Spence Award. Bob Spude of the award committee sought and received approval from Prof. Mary Lee Spence, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, to use her name.

The committee's proposal was then discussed and approved by the MHA board during its 2014 meeting in Trinidad. The first Mary Lee Spence Award will be named at the 2015 meeting, for eligible books published in 2013-2014, and will continue thereafter on the same two-year nominating and selection schedule as the Clark C. Spence Award. The name of the Clark C. Spence Award Committee was also changed, to the "Book Award Committee," to reflect the committee's new duties. Information about applying for the Clark C. Spence Award and the Mary Lee Spence Award will be published periodically in the *Mining History News* and on the MHA's website.

Recent Books by MHA Authors

Note from the Editor: Every fall issue, the *Mining History News* runs a column to advertise new books by MHA members. This is the fifth consecutive year of this valued feature. The intent is to help bring new books on any aspect of mining history to the attention of our membership. Authors must be current MHA members. Submissions are welcomed throughout the year. To participate, please send complete book details and description to **Eric Nystrom, Newsletter Editor**, at eric.nystrom@rit.edu.

David Bullock, *Coal Wars: Unions, Strikes, and Violence in Depression-Era Central Washington* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2014), 208 pages; softcover: \$24.95, ISBN: 978-0874-223255

Author David Bullock uses interviews, newspapers, court documents, and corporate archives to document the history of the railroad coal town of Roslyn, Washington, as it became tangled in a Depression Era labor struggle pitting two unions against each other in the 1930s. When the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) aligned with the coal company instead of the miners in 1934's contract negotiations, it set the stage for the rise of a new local organization, the Western Miners Union of America. Opposed by the UMWA, the railroad, and the government, the new union resorted to intimidation in order to recruit members. The conflict between the two unions intensified, leading to murder on a Roslyn street corner. When the killer was acquitted, community outrage rose, and Communist activists and other radical labor groups offered to back the Western Miners. They called for a strike on April 3, 1934, which divided families and pitted neighbor against neighbor in a violent and traumatic struggle between the unions, leaving lasting scars in the community.

Roger Burt, Raymond Burnley, Michael Gill, and Alasdair Neill, *Mining in Cornwall and Devon: Mines and Men* (Exeter, UK: University of Exeter Press, 2014), distributed by University of Chicago Press. 272 pages + CD-ROM; softcover: \$45.00 (US), ISBN: 978-0-85989-8898

Mining in Cornwall and Devon is an economic history of mines, mineral ownership, and mine management in the South West of England. The work brings together material from a variety of hard-to-find sources on the thousands of mines that operated in

Cornwall and Devon from the late 1790s to the present day. It presents information on what they produced and when they produced it; who the owners and managers were and how many men, women and children were employed. For the mine owners, managers and engineers, it also offers a guide to their careers outside of the South West, in other mining districts across Britain and the world, and is an invaluable guide for family historians and those interested in biographical history. The printed book provides a guide to the sources, their interpretation and how they illustrate the long-term development and decline of the industry. The composite mine-by-mine tables are presented on an interactive CD included free with the book.

Matthew Kierstead, *From Copperas to Cleanup: The History of Vermont's Elizabeth Copper Mine* (Marlboro, NY: Milestone Heritage Consulting, 2014), 62 pages, softcover: \$15.00 (incl. postage), contact matt@milestoneheritage.com to order.

The Elizabeth Mine in South Strafford, Vermont, operated from 1809 to 1958. It was the largest copper mine in New England and hosted developments in the American chemical and copper industries, including an important early U.S. "copperas" (iron sulfate) factory. The mine produced 50,000 tons of copper for the American Industrial Revolution, World War II, and Korean War. Runoff from the dramatic, abandoned, mine landscape contaminated the Connecticut River watershed. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the mine one of the largest Superfund sites in New England in 2001, and cleanup was completed in 2013. *From Copperas to Cleanup* presents, in words and pictures, the story of 150 years of industrial activity at the Elizabeth Mine and how the EPA and its project partners documented and reclaimed its legacy on the

Recent Books by MHA Authors

continued from page 3

landscape. Milestone Heritage Consulting created this publication for the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help them fulfill their obligations to address cleanup impacts on historic resources under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Eric C. Nystrom, *Seeing Underground: Maps, Models, and Mining Engineering in America* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2014), 320 pages; hardcover: \$39.95, ISBN: 978-0-87417-932-3.

Nystrom argues that as industrial mining came of age in the United States, the development of maps and models gave power to a new visual culture and allowed mining engineers to advance their profession, gaining authority over mining operations from the miners themselves. Starting in the late 19th century, mining engineers developed a new set of practices, artifacts, and discourses to visualize complex, pitch-dark three-dimensional spaces. These maps and models became necessary tools in creating and controlling those spaces. They made mining more understandable, predictable, and profitable. They also helped create a new professional class of mining engineers and changed how mining was done. This new visual culture was crucial to specific developments in American mining, such as implementing new safety regulations after the 1869 Avondale, Pennsylvania fire killed 110 men and boys; understanding complex geology, as in the rich ores of Butte, Montana; and settling high-stakes litigation, such as the Tonopah, Nevada, Jim Butler v. West End lawsuit, which reached the US Supreme Court.

Stanley W. Paher, *Nevadans: The Spirit of the Silver State* (Reno: Nevada Publications, 2014), 232 pages; \$39.95, ISBN: 978-0-913814-97-0

Nevadans: The Spirit of the Silver State by Stanley W. Paher of Reno is a record of the state from the first explorers and emigrants through the major mining eras, through the years of the Great Depression and up to modern times. Articles in this book tell of Nevada's entry onto the world's stage, a story of luck, historical circumstances and crafty promotion. The book covers

the story of the early explorers, the emigrants and the state's silver and gold mining booms. Included are articles about ranching, agriculture, gaming, politics, the military, collectibles, and back road travel, and several other Silver State themes. Paher notes that the book is heavily illustrated and nearly a quarter of the book's 461 images concern mining topics, with many in color. There is also an essay on modern mining in Nevada from 1965 to the present, featuring the Carlin Trend and elsewhere, plus color images of smelting.

Mark A. Vendl, Duane A. Smith, and Karen A. Vendl, *My Home at Present: Life in the Mine Boarding Houses in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado* (Lake City, CO: Western Reflections Publishing Co., 2013), 167 pages; hardcover: \$34.95, ISBN: 978-1-937851-10-1.

Much has been written about the miner's life as he toiled underground, but that is only part of a very interesting story. *My Home At Present* relates the other half of the story -- a time when the miner's daily life in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado was often in a boardinghouse where he was fed with enormous amounts of food to keep his energy up. Sometimes he lived there with his fellow miners for months at a time, unable to get to town because of deep snows. It was almost as dangerous above ground as below, as he faced temperatures well below zero, hurricane force winds, the possibility of running out of food, and the ever present deadly avalanches. Yet it also could be a good life in which food was very edible as well as plentiful, libraries and poolrooms provided recreation, and the miners spent hours telling stories and playing cards.

David A. Zegeer with Shannon Lamkin, *Inside MSHA: The Formative Years of the Mine Safety and Health Administration* (Lexington: The Kentucky Foundation, 2014), softcover: \$30.00 incl. shipping; visit www.davezegeer.com to order.

After a long career in the coal industry in Kentucky with Consolidation Coal Company, Beth-Elkhorn

"Recent Books..." continued on page 5

MHA Seeks Nominations of Books Published in 2013 or 2014 for the Spence Awards

The **Clark C. Spence Award** recognizes the mining history book that comes closest to achieving the rigorous documentation and narrative standards set by the works of Clark C. Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

The newly-established **Mary Lee Spence Documentary Book Award** recognizes the mining history book that best represents the high quality of editing documents, letters, diaries, photographs, oral histories and similar works set by Mary Lee Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

To be considered for either award, a book must focus on the history of a specific mining region, or a mining-related theme or topic, especially within the American West, or an individual or individuals prominent in the history of American mining. There are no temporal limits on subjects. The book must be published either in the year 2013 or 2014. Each award comes with a \$500 cash prize, which will be presented to the winning authors at the 2015 Mining History Association Annual Meeting.

Recent Books....

continued from page 4

Corporation (owned by Bethlehem Steel), and his own consulting practice, author David A. Zegeer was tapped to lead the federal agency that oversees mine safety in the United States from 1983-1987. After retiring, he set out to write this book, which chronicles his time as head of MSHA, including a history of the agency, and provides insight into its operations. When Zegeer's health began to decline, he retained Shannon Lamkin to pull his notes together. Zegeer died in December 2012, but read and approved the final chapter of the book before he passed. The book is part memoir, part history, and part commentary. All proceeds after expenses of this book will go to benefit the David A. Zegeer Mine Health & Safety Scholarship at the University of Kentucky, Department of Mining Engineering.

Authors or publishers should send three copies of the nominated work to:

David Wolff
MHA Book Award Committee
Black Hills State University
1200 University St., Unit 9003
Spearfish, SD 57799

Two books shared the award for the best book in mining history published during 2011-2012. Congratulations to Christopher J. Huggard and Terrence M. Humble for *Santa Rita Del Cobre: A Copper Mining Community in New Mexico* published by University Press of Colorado and to Richard E. Lingenfelter for his two volume *Bonanzas & Borrascas* set published by The Arthur H. Clark Co. Ronald M. James and Robert E. Stewart also received an award of special recognition for their book *The Gold Rush Letters of E. Allen Grosh & Hosea B. Grosh* published by University of Nevada Press.

Like the MHA? "Like" us Online!

The Mining History Association is steadily increasing its online presence, with an expanded website under the leadership of Mike Kaas, and, beginning in 2013, an official MHA Facebook page. Barbara Clements is the MHA's Facebook coordinator. The page can be accessed at <http://facebook.com/MiningHistoryAssociation> -- visitors do not need to be Facebook members to read the page, though a Facebook account is needed to comment. If you are a Facebook member, please take a look and "Like" the MHA!

MHA members can be found talking about mining history on other social networks as well. Some members report connecting informally via **LinkedIn.com**, the career-focused social network. Twitter users can use the **#mininghistory** hashtag to note and search for mining history tweets. And of course the association's website, <http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org> is a rich source for information about the MHA, our past meetings, our publications, and other material.

MHA Offers Research Grants

The Mining History Association Research Grant Program is open to all who are currently engaged in or who plan to conduct mining history research, including graduate students, academic scholars, public sector professionals in related disciplines, independent scholars, writers, and educators. Research may focus on technology, business, social and cultural life, the environment, or any other aspect of mining, its associated industries, and its communities.

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis. The Grants Committee, at its discretion, may make two grants per year. Funding may vary, up to a maximum of \$750 per grant. Awardees will be asked to disseminate their research results either by submitting a presentation for consideration at the 2016 MHA Annual Conference in Telluride, CO, or an article to be reviewed in consideration for publication by the *Mining History Journal*.

Applicants must submit a completed application form and a resume or vita before midnight on April 15, 2015 to brianleech@augustana.edu. Forms and additional information about the grant may be found at: <http://mininghistoryassociation.org/ResearchGrants.htm>

Volunteers Help Save San Juan Mine Boarding House

Over the past two summers volunteers tackled a project to stabilize and interpret the surviving Golconda boarding house and compressor house high in Colorado's San Juan mountains. Volunteers were organized by HistoriCorps, a Denver-based nonprofit that engages volunteers in historic preservation projects on public lands, and worked with crew from the Southwest Conservation Corps, under an agreement with the Gunnison Field Office of the BLM. The boarding house and compressor house are both log structures. Volunteers repaired foundations and sills, shaped and installed replacement logs, reconstructed collapsed frame additions, reconstructed and repaired structure roofs, installed windows and doors, and chinked and daubed log walls. More information about their efforts, including some beautiful pictures, can be found on the project's HistoriCorps website: <http://historiccorps.org/golconda2014/>

Transitions

Ernest K. Lehmann (Minneapolis, MN)
December 2013

Join the Mining History Association in Virginia City and Gold Hill, Nevada Annual Meeting June 11-14, 2015

"Going Back to the Comstock: MHA's Silver Anniversary"

Preliminary details available on the MHA's website:
<http://mininghistoryassociation.org/VirginiaCity.htm>

Complete conference details and session program forthcoming in Spring 2015 *Mining History News*

Terrific Trinidad Tours

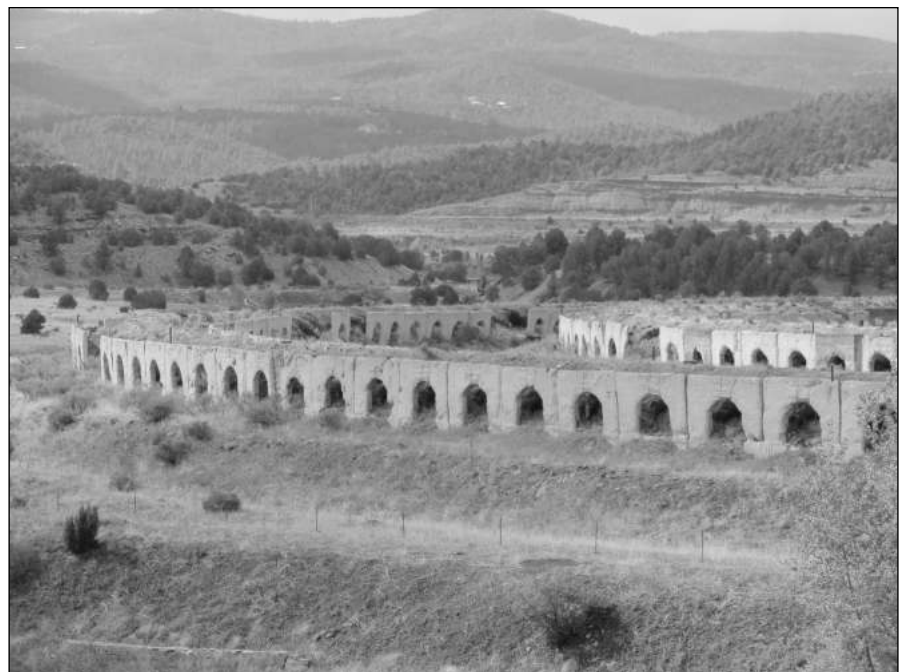


The MHA's 2014 meeting in Trinidad, Colorado, explored many of the interesting historical and geological sites of the Raton Basin coalfield.

Top-left: Ed Raines, MHA President, explains the K-T Boundary geological layer visible in the strata behind him. The K-T Boundary marks the transition between the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods, and this layer has been interpreted by many geologists as evidence of a gigantic impact event that caused a mass extinction of the dinosaurs.

Top-right: The monument constructed by the United Mine Workers of America at the site of the Ludlow Massacre of April, 1914.

Right: Remains of the extensive coke ovens at the site of Cokedale, Colorado.



(All photos by Eric Nystrom)

Mining History Association Dues Reminder

Student:	\$20.00
Individual:	\$35.00
International:	\$45.00
Institutional (journal only):	\$30.00
Sustaining:	\$60.00
Patron Membership:	\$100.00
Corporate Member:	\$500.00

Our society depends on members like you - thank you for your support of the MHA!

Diane Dudley, Membership Chair
Mining History Association
 323 Daniels Place
 Cañon City, CO 81212

** Note: MHA address has changed!*

Mining History Association
323 Daniels Place
Cañon City, CO 81212

First Class Mail

Upcoming Events

2015 Mining History Association Conference

June 11-14, 2015

Virginia City / Comstock Lode, NV

2015 National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs Conference

Santa Fe, NM

September 28-30, 2015

<http://www.naamlp2015.com>

2015 Western History Association Conference

October 21-24, 2015

Portland, OR

2016 Mining History Association Conference

June 9-12, 2016

Telluride, CO

2017 Mining History Association Conference

June 2017

Fairbanks, AK

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. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Eric Nystrom at the MHA address or by email: eric.nystrom@rit.edu.

Deadlines: Spring issue: February 15
 Summer issue: June 15
 Fall issue: August 15
 Winter issue: November 15

Change of Address: Please send all address changes to Diane Dudley, Membership Chair, at:

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