



July 2009

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

Student Trip Sparks Lifelong Interest in Mining History

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege to act as President of the Mining History Association (MHA) for this next year. I, and my husband Mark, have enjoyed being members of MHA for the past twenty years. We have made many friends and have enjoyed attending the annual conferences. Being retired now, it is interesting for me to note that in my entire working career, I did not have the opportunity to work in any aspect of the mining industry or mining history, as most of the previous MHA presidents have.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in geology, and a Master of Science degree in Water Resources Management, both from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I took graduate courses in economic geology, seeking a second Masters, and I intended to combine the education from both to obtain employment with a mining company to deal with the environmental problems that accompany mining operations. In 1973, there was little interest in someone with that background, so I ended up using the environmental side of my education in my entire career.

One of the courses I took in graduate school was a seminar in mining districts in Colorado. The course ended with a field trip to 7 different mines in Colorado in Jamestown, the Leadville area, Rifle, Uravan, Ouray, and Creede. Another interesting sign of the times was that the 3 women on the trip (2 masters candidates and a PhD candidate) were not allowed underground at the Climax molybdenum mine! How times have



UW field trip, underground at the Black Cloud mine, Leadville, Colorado, June 7, 1972 (Photo courtesy of Karen Vendl)

changed!

That was the beginning of my interest in all aspects of Colorado mining, from the history of mining in the State, to the minerals that were produced. Continuing my interest in mining, I have been a member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) since 1973.

Our joining MHA and attending all of the meetings (except the start-up meeting in Reno and the meeting in Rossland, B.C.) is something we both really enjoy. The Association's best feature is that it is very informal and low-key,

(Continued on Page 2)

"Student Trip..." (Continued from Page 1)

where people with various backgrounds can comfortably interact with each other. Through MHA, we have been able to visit and study other mining areas, besides those in Colorado, that we would otherwise not have been able to access. In my opinion, there are several things that MHA needs to be doing: continue its appeal to people of different backgrounds; find new and interesting places to hold our annual conferences; encourage members to participate in the planning and organizing of future conferences; and encourage groups to hold "mini-meetings" at locations too small to hold the annual conference, such as the one in Gold Hill, Colorado in 2004.

Please contact me if you have an interest in hosting a conference, or if you have any other suggestions. There is a "how-to" manual available that can assist you in the planning and organizing phases of hosting a conference. Remember, MHA operates on the hard work of volunteers, so please consider helping out.

Karen Vendl
La Grange Park, IL
mkvendl@earthlink.net

Newsletter Contributions Welcome

Do you have a piece of research that is interesting, but much too short for the *Mining History Journal*? News about an upcoming conference or event related to mining history? A tip about a "hidden gem" of an archive? Consider sending it to the *Mining History News*! We are always looking for information of interest to our fellow members.

Contact Newsletter Editor Eric Nystrom at eric.nystrom@rit.edu for further details.

Mark Your Calendars for Silver City in June 2010

In June 2010, the Mining History Association will descend on Silver City, New Mexico for its annual meeting. Silver City is located in Grant County, New Mexico's premier mining country. Silver, obviously, was the reason for the town's founding and mining helped it rise to become county seat and regional center. The former gold camp of Pinos Altos is seven miles north, and the famous Santa Rita mine/Chino open pit now operated by Freeport is ten miles east.

The meeting will be held in state-of-the-art facilities on the campus of Western New Mexico University. The Thursday reception will take place at the historic Altman House, which was constructed by a mining magnate and which now houses the Silver City Museum. The Buckhorn Exchange in Pinos Altos will be the venue for the annual banquet.

Conference organizers have set up a pair of very interesting tours. The Santa Rita mine/Chino open pit operated by Freeport will be the Friday afternoon tour. The Sunday all day tour will be east from Silver City through the Black range to the mining camps and ghost towns of the 1870s to early 1900s silver boom, including Kingston, Hillsboro, and Lake Valley.

Silver City has a full range of modern hotels, historic B&Bs and hotel, older inexpensive accommodations. There will not be a conference hotel, but organizers recommend the Palace Hotel, 106 West Broadway (575-388-1811) near the Museum.

Conference organizers Bob Spude, Chris Huggard, Susan Berry, Terry Humble, Homer Milford, and Robert Eveleth look forward to welcoming you to Silver City in June 2010!

Historical and Remediation Information for Creede-area Mines

L. Mike Kaas

Those of us on the Sunday MHA field trip after the Creede meeting heard Zeke Ward discuss the emergency action being taken by EPA on West Willow Creek near the Commodore and Amethyst Mines. He also mentioned some of the work of the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee. The Committee's website has additional information that will be of interest to MHA members.

Willow Creek Reclamation Committee website.

www.willowcreede.org

"Historical Context for the Creede Mining District," Eric Roy Twitty, Mountain States Historical, 1999.

<http://www.willowcreede.org/historicalpreservation/Final%20Historical%20Context.pdf>

The steep canyon walls of the Creede Mining District sometimes made it difficult to get a full appreciation of the extent of the ruins and features at the various mining, milling, and residential sites, as well as the reclamation work that has already been done. The following three reports describe selective cultural resource inventories, including historical information, photographs, and sketch maps of many sites. They will be of great help to anyone trying to identify the subject matter of photographs taken in the canyon or on the Bachelor Loop Road.

"Mining the Amethyst Vein," Eric Roy Twitty, Mountain States Historical, 2000.

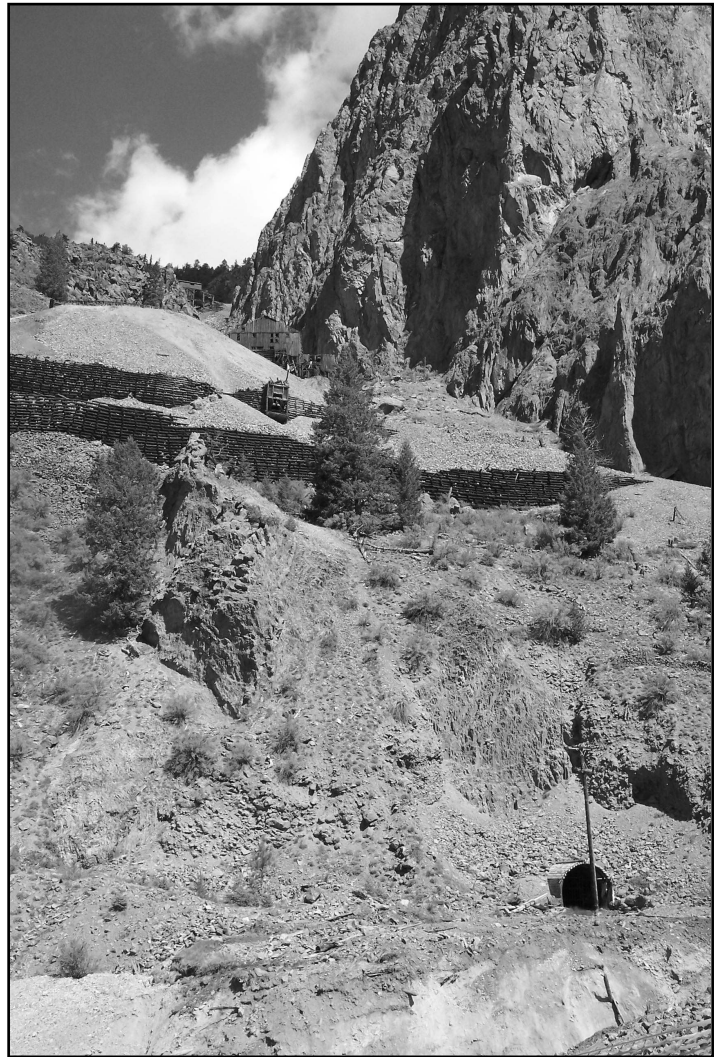
<http://www.willowcreede.org/historicalpreservation/Final%20Amethyst%20Vein%20Report.pdf>

"Mining the Holy Moses Vein," Eric Roy Twitty, Mountain States Historical, 2002.

<http://www.willowcreede.org/historicalpreservation/Holy%20Moses%20Report.pdf>

"Mining and Prospecting the Alpha Corsair and Other Veins," Eric Roy Twitty, Mountain States Historical, 2003.

<http://www.willowcreede.org/historicalpreservation/Final%20Alpha%20Corsair%20Report.pdf>



Commodore No. 5, along the Bachelor Loop, just north of Creede, CO. (Photo courtesy of L. Mike Kaas)



Commodore Mine Ore House, north of Creede. (Photo courtesy of L. Mike Kaas)

MHA Members Enjoy Creede Conference Tours



The 2009 MHA Sunday tour is under way, and it looks like everyone is having fun! This schoolbus served as transportation for the Sunday tour of the Creede, Wagon Wheel Gap, and Lake City Mining Districts. (Photo courtesy L. Mike Kaas)



Mining historians are rock hounds too! The group finds itself fossil hunting during the Sunday tour lunch break. (Photo courtesy L. Mike Kaas)

Call for Presentations

21st Annual Mining History Association Conference

**June 10-13, 2010
Silver City, New Mexico**

The program sessions chair Chris Huggard 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 title of presentation, an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each presentation, plus biographical information about each presenter, including mailing/email address. Please note, speakers must register for the conference in order to give their presentations. Please send the written proposals to the program sessions committee chair by November 30, 2009. Submission by email attachment is preferred.

Chris Huggard, Program Chair
523 N. Willow Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72701
chuggard@nwacc.edu

Mining Foundation of the Southwest sponsors American Mining Hall of Fame in Tucson

William Hawes

One of my laments is the poor communication that exists between organizations with similar interests. Most MHA members are familiar with the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum perched up in the United States' highest city, Leadville, Colorado, but few are familiar with another similar organization-The American Mining Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Mining Foundation of the Southwest, located in Tucson, Arizona. (A much more pleasant and oxygen-enriched place, especially in the winter.)

The Mining Foundation of the Southwest (MFSW) was incorporated in 1983. The purpose of the Foundation is to promote public understanding and education related to mineral resources and the mining industry, both in the U.S. and abroad.

The American Mining Hall of Fame serves

to educate the public about prominent persons associated with the mining industry in both past and present times by inducting one living honoree and two deceased luminaries, awarding medals of merit to outstanding individuals, and honoring one supporting organization each year. While the American Mining Hall of Fame and the National Mining Hall of Fame have some inductees in common, many honorees are found only in one or the other. Plaques commemorating each of these inductions are on display in the American Mining Hall of Fame section of the Arizona Historical Society Museum at 949 East Second Street, Tucson, Arizona. (Note: the bylaws are being amended to recognize up to five members of mining's past per year.)

Mining Foundation of the Southwest
PO Box 42317
Tucson, AZ 85733
E-mail: admin@miningfoundationsw.org

Future MHA Meetings

**2010 Meeting
June 10-13
Silver City, NM**

**2011 Meeting
June 1-5
Dillon, MT**

**2012 Meeting
June 7-10
Prescott, AZ**

MHA Secretary Needed

The Mining History Association is searching for a new Secretary. Dawn Bunyak, who has served our organization faithfully since 2004, is stepping down. Thank you, Dawn, for your service to the Association.

Dawn notes that the bylaws describe the Secretary's duties as follows:

"The Secretary shall:

- (a) keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Council and the annual meetings of the Association in one or more books provided for that purpose
- (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws or as required by law
- (c) be custodian of the Association records and of the Seal of the Association and see that the Seal of the Association under its Seal is duly authorized
- (d) keep and maintain current names and addresses of each member of the Association as provided by the membership chairman
- (e) sign, with the President or Vice President, documents or instruments which require the signature of the Secretary of the Association and which have been authorized by resolution of the Council or vote of the annual meeting of the Association
- (f) have general charge of the minute books of the Association, and
- (g) in general, perform all duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the President or by the Council.

In addition, annual election ballots forwarded by the membership chair from the organization's mailbox are counted by the Secretary who will inform the President of the official tally. The newsletter editor is also notified of the election results to print in the March newsletter."

The Mining History Association depends on volunteers like you to do the work of the society. If you are interested in serving as the MHA Secretary, please contact President Karen Vendl, mkvendl@earthlink.net

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 552
Sedalia, CO 80135

First Class Mail

Upcoming Events

**10th Cultural Heritage Symposium on Mining,
Metallurgy, and Geosciences**
September 29-October 2, 2009
Freiberg, Saxony, Germany

49th Annual Western Historical Association Conference
October 7-10, 2009
Denver, CO
<http://www.umsl.edu/~wha/>

10th Meeting of Historians of Latin American Mining
November 4-6, 2009
San Luís Potosí, México

21st Annual Mining History Conference
June 10-13, 2010
Silver City, NM
<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org>

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

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

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 552
Sedalia, CO 80135
www.mininghistoryassociation.org