



March 2009

# *Mining History News*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

## **Unsung Heroes of the Mining World**

Heroism is a noble quality, but what does it take to be a hero? Courage under fire? Fame and fortune? I was thinking about this the last time I visited the Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville, Colorado, looking for some of my favorite characters among the 200 or more honorees. I wondered why I didn't find a bronze plaque for James G. Fair, one of the Bonanza Kings. Perhaps Jim's less-than-stellar reputation had something to do with it. After all, he was known as "slippery" long before he arrived on the Comstock.<sup>1</sup> Nor did I find a plaque for Fair's "infamous" rival, William Sharon, the subject of an entertaining recent biography.<sup>2</sup> Both had wealth, notoriety and bravery, at least in their bold disregard for public opinion. These qualities may be antithetical to what most would consider heroic, but Americans have always had difficulty distinguishing between heroes and their opposites.

Heroes and antiheroes, white hats and black hats, often ride side by side in popular culture. That may be why the Mining Hall of Fame has professed a willingness to consider "rascals" for induction.<sup>3</sup> Yet adding such antiheroes as "Soapy" Smith, the underworld boss of Creede and Skagway before he was gunned down by a "true hero,"<sup>4</sup> or "Diamondfield Jack" Davis, a miner turned gunslinger who was nearly hanged before being pardoned,<sup>5</sup> seem perhaps to be stretching even "hall of fame" rascality to oxymoronic proportions. It is also risky to celebrate those who flaunt public opinion or conventional standards, as the editors of Time Magazine found out after receiving a barrage of criticism for naming the Muslim cleric Ayatollah Khomeini "Man of the Year" during the American hostage crisis in Iran.<sup>6</sup>

There is still a third category worthy of pantheonic recognition in the Mining Hall of Fame. Unsung heroes are the "gray hats," the men and women who may lack the superlative qualities of either heroes or antiheroes, yet who make their mark in the world. Daniel Boorstin defined an unsung hero as "the person of solid values who can be admired for something more substantial than his well-knownness."<sup>7</sup> Grayness also symbolizes the complexities of character that distinguish "real" people from the simplistic black- or white-hat caricatures created by image-makers. Public recognition might eventually earn you a star on a Hollywood sidewalk or a place in the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame, but it does not characterize most of the mining worthies enshrined at Leadville. Celebrity is no substitute for substance.

Loosening the criteria for public recognition and acclaim leads to the obvious problem of limits, both qualitative and quantitative. If every admirable "person of solid values" is just as worthy as the noblest icons of the mining world, can there be any restrictions on eligibility to the Mining Hall of Fame? Doubtless every member of the Mining History Association could offer up a list of interesting possibilities not found in the Leadville roster—not yet, at least. But all these latent candidates will remain hidden unless their deeds—and misdeeds—are known to the gatekeepers of publicity. The challenge to mining historians, then, as to those in any historical field, is to rescue the "unsung heroes" from the depths of obscurity.

*Ron Limbaugh, MHA President*

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## 2009 MHA Election Results

**Terms begin June 2009**

President: **Karen Vendl**

Vice President/President Elect:  
**David Wolff**

Council: **John Hillman, Paul Malkoski,  
John Steward**

Nominating Committee: **Bill Wahl**

## Welcome to Creede!

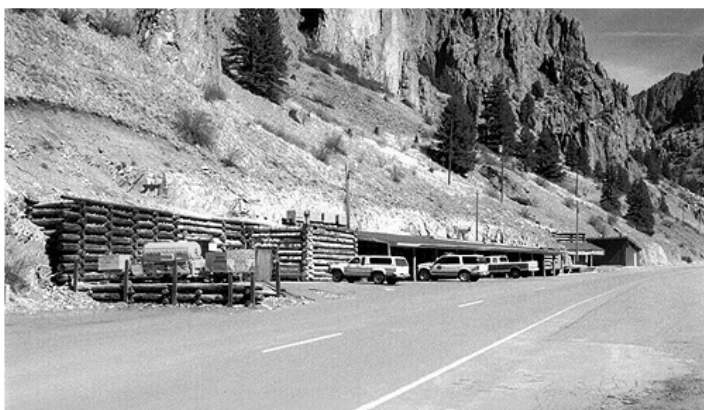
The 2009 Mining History Association Annual Conference will take place June 3-7, 2009 in Creede, Colorado. Creede, a silver mining town located in a mountain canyon in southwest Colorado, boomed in the late 1880s and early 1890s. As silver production became less profitable worldwide in the 20th century, Creede's mines remained in production into the 1980s by emphasizing lead and zinc. Today, the tiny town of Creede relies on tourism.

The nearest major airports to Creede are Denver and Albuquerque. Once in the Creede area, there are many choices for lodging (see the list on page 3). For more information on how to get to Creede as well as links to local attractions, look here:

<http://www.creede.com/gethere.htm>

Our conference will take place at the Creede Underground Mining Museum, **depicted in the photo to the left**. From downtown, head into the mountains (which start abruptly!), and you will see the museum on the left.

**See you all in Creede!**



*"Unsung Heroes..." (Continued from Page 1)*

1. Ronald H. Limbaugh and William F. Fuller, *Calaveras Gold: The Impact of Mining on a Mother Lode County* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2004), 59.
2. Michael J. Makley, *The Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2006).
3. [www.leadville.com](http://www.leadville.com)
4. Pierre Berton, *The Klondike Fever: The Life and Death of the Last Great Gold Rush* (1958; reprint, New York: Carroll & Graf, 1985), 334-67.
5. [www.idahohistory.net](http://www.idahohistory.net)
6. [www.time.com](http://www.time.com)
7. [www.quoteland.com](http://www.quoteland.com)

## More Digital Resources

### League of Nations, Statistical Yearbooks

Although they only cover the period of existence of the League, they have comprehensive tables for major minerals. They make the useful distinction between production of ores and of metals, and they are broken down by country.

<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govinfo/collections/league/stat.html>

--John Hillman, Peterborough, Ontario

# Lodging in and near Creede

## Creede

**The Creede Hotel & Restaurant** (\$100-\$200)  
www.creedehotel.com  
719-658-2608

**Antlers Rio Grande Lodge** (lodge & cabins)  
www.antlerslodge.com  
719-658-2423

**Snowshoe Lodge** (\$75 to \$150)  
www.snowshoelodge.net  
866-658-2315

**Blessings Inn Bed and Breakfast**  
www.blessingsinn.com  
719-658-0215

**The Old Firehouse Restaurant B&B**  
www.theoldfirehouse.com  
719-658-0212

**RC Guest Ranch (cabins)**  
www.rcguestranch.com  
719-658-2253

**Blue Creek Lodge**  
800-326-6408

**The Club at the Cliffs**  
www.clubatcliffs.com  
719.873.5266

**Cascada Cabins / Cascada Bar & Grill**  
719-658-1033

## Wagon Wheel Gap (5 minutes from Creede)

**Cottonwood Cove (lodge & cabins)** (\$100 to \$200)  
719-658-2242

**4UR Ranch** (\$100)  
www.4urranch.com  
719-850-8716

This guest ranch has a special offer for MHA. 12 rooms will be made available for \$100 per night for Tuesday through Sunday nights. 4UR is one of the premier luxury

guest ranches in the west. They offer all kinds of activities and gourmet meals for \$300 to \$500 per night. The MHA special is bare bones. No meals, no activities, but very close to Creede, and right across the way from one of our field trip stops, the CFI Fluorspar Mine. Several MHA couples have already signed up to stay there! Email Robin for a MHA special deal reservation. Her email is Robin@4urranch.com.

## South Fork (20 minutes from Creede)

**Apple Dumpling Bed & Breakfast** (\$100 to \$150)  
www.appledumplingbandb.com  
719-873-9876

**Arbor House Inn Bed & Breakfast** (\$100 to \$150)  
www.arborhouseinnco.com  
719-873-5012

**The Inn Motel** (\$50 to \$75)  
www.innsouthfork.com  
800-233-9723

**Lazy Bear Cabins** (\$75 to \$100)  
www.lazybearcabins.com  
877-873-1443

**Chinook Lodge & Smokehouse** (\$75 to \$100)  
www.chinooklodge.com  
719-873-1707

**Rainbow Lodge** (\$50 to \$100)  
www.rainbowsouthfork.biz  
719-873-5571

**Spruce Lodge** (\$50 to \$150 & up)  
www.thesprucelodge.com  
719-873-5605

**Ute Bluff Lodge** (\$50 to \$100)  
www.uteblufflodge.com  
719-873-5595

**Wolf Creek Lodge** (\$50 to \$100)  
www.wolfcreekskilodge.com  
719-873-5547

# Mining History Association

## Annual Meeting June 3-7, 2009

Creede Underground Mining Museum  
503 Forest Service Rd #9  
Creede, Colorado

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

All day Pre-conference field trip  
**Ed Raines**, *Volcanic Geology of the Eastern San Juans*. Tour from the pre-caldera eruptions, to the early Cochetopa and La Garita Calderas, to the late Creede Caldera. Travel by individual car.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 4

(All events at *Creede Underground Mining Museum*)

All day Opportunity to visit regional mining museums  
1:00-3:00 MHA Council Meeting – both outgoing and incoming MHA board members  
3:30-4:30 MHA Editorial Board Meeting  
1:00-8:00 Registration  
6:00-8:00 Welcoming Reception at the Creede Underground Mining Museum  
**Janis Jacobs**, President of Creede Historical Society  
*History of Creede*

### FRIDAY, JUNE 5

8:00-9:00 Session 1: Conference Opening  
Welcome: **Ron Limbaugh**, MHA President 2008-09  
Conference Opening: **Ed Raines**, Conference Chair  
**Ed Raines**, *Mining History of Creede*  
**Bill Culver**, *What to Expect from the Creede Program Presentations*

9:10-10:15 Session 2: Late Nineteenth Century Mining Law  
Chair: **Johnny Johnsson**  
**Eric Nystrom**, *"Some Graphic Method of Visualization": Mining Law and the Visual Culture of Mining*  
**Rudy Davison**, *"Apexers" versus "Sideliners," the Legal Struggle to Gain Possession of the Durant Mine in Aspen from 1879-1889*  
**Gordon Bakken**, *Apex Law, Geology, Expert Witnesses and Demogorgon: The Best Mining Law for Litigators for a Half Century*

10:25-11:40 Session 3: Colorado Mining  
Chair: **Duane A. Smith**, Fort Lewis College  
**James Warren Andrews**, *Creede – Mineral County, Colorado*  
**Douglas Thayer and David Thayer**, *The Gold Prince Aerial Tram, San Juan County, Colorado*  
**Bob Ring and Al Ring**, *Ambrose E. Ring's Colorado Mining Experiences: 1917-1928*

11:55-1:10 Session 4: Documenting the Mining Past  
Chair: **David Wolff**, Black Hills State University  
**Noel Kirshenbaum**, *Mining Rickard's Written Records*  
**Cornel Reinhart**, *The Clintonville Story: Iron Mining on the Forgotten New York Frontier, 1825-1890*

**Karmen King**, *An Interesting Curve in the Road: The Chattanooga Curve in the Red Mountain Mining District*

- 1:10-2:30 Lunch – open/in Creede (individually drive into Creede)
- 2:30-4:00 Session 5: Remediation and Preservation – Compatible?  
Chair: **Eric Nystrom**, Rochester Institute of Technology  
**D.D. “Dee” Trent**, *Cleaning Up a Century of Hardrock Mining: The Abandoned Mine Lands Initiative*  
**Brian Leech**, *Debating the Pit: Urban Renewal and the Struggle Over Open-Pit Copper Mining in Butte, Montana*  
**Beverly Rich and William Tookey**, *Castle in the Clouds, the Saving of the Old 100 Boardinghouse*
- 4:15-5:30 Session 6: Three Books of Mining History  
Chair: **William Culver**, State University of New York at Plattsburgh  
**Russell Hartill**, *Backfilling the Books: A Look at Utah's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and Its Impact on Mine Heritage*  
**Mike Capps and Stuart Burgess**, *Opening the Books: Exploring the History and Underground Passages of Ophir Hill Mine*  
**Brannan Harthill**, *The Future of Mining Books*
- 6:30-7:00 Reception at the *Rio Grande Club* in South Fork  
(Rio Grande Club is a 20 minute drive from the Creede Underground Mining Museum)
- 7:00-on Awards Banquet at the Rio Grande Club  
Banquet Moderator: **Ron Limbaugh**, MHA President 2008-09  
The MHA Awards Program  
Featured Speaker: **Duane Smith**, *Sesquicentennial of the Colorado Gold Rush*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

- 8:00-9:30 Session 7: Star Mining History Student Presentations  
Chair: **Tom Noel**, University of Colorado, Denver  
**Debra Faulkner**, *Silver Heels: The Guardian Angel of the Miners*  
**John Stewart**, *Thomas F. Walsh: Mining Millionaire*  
**Charla Stilling**, *Brides of the Mining Multitudes: Commercial Romance in the Mining Camps*  
**Dino Maniatis**, *The Phoenix Mine: A Reborn Treasure*
- 9:45-10:45 Session 8: Trends in Mining Research and Heritage Preservation  
Chair: **Jeremy Mouat**, University of Alberta – Augustana  
**Joe Mussey**, *Chihuahuan Desert Mining Heritage Exhibit*  
**Barry McGowan**, *The Last El Dorado - The Legend of Australia's Lasseter's Reef*
- 11:00-12:15 Session 9: From the Rio Grande to Roughing It  
Chair: **Jay Fell**, University of Colorado  
**Tom Noel**, *Creede and the Upper Rio Grande Mining*  
**Dana EchoHawk**, *Native & Hispanic Fortune Seekers on the Rio Grande del Norte*  
**Mark Twain (Hugh Bingham)**, *Roughing It on the Mines*
- 12:45-2:15 Presidential Luncheon at the Underground Museum  
Passing of Presidential Rock Pick: **Ron Limbaugh**, MHA President 2008-09  
**Karen Vendl**, MHA President 2009-10

Presidential Lecture: *Treasures from the Miner's Lunchbox*

- 2:30-3:45 Session 10: Creede's History Seen Locally  
 Chair: **Ed Raines**, Consulting Geologist  
**Beth Simmons**, *Arthur Lakes – He Overlooked Creede*  
**Ken Wiley**, *The Amethyst Vein*
- 4:00-5:00 Session 11: Jim Besleme (1937-2009) – Memorial for a Mining Historian  
 Open session for memories and tall tales.
- 5:15-6:30 MHA Business Meeting (open to all members)
- 6:30-8:00 Dinner on your own
- 8:00-9:00 Session 12: Presentation of ***Lockout***  
 Chair: **Eleanor Swent**, MHA President 2007-08, and Director of the Oral History Series on Western Mining in the Twentieth Century, The Bancroft Library, University of California-Berkeley.  
**Alan Murray**, *Dead Men Talking*, followed by the 60 minute documentary ***Lockout***

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

**Post-Conference Field Trip:** *A Tour of Portions of the Creede, Wagon Wheel Gap, and Lake City Mining Districts.*  
 Limited to 36 passengers on the bus.

**Attention Conference Vendors**

Tables are available for selling books and merchandise during the conference. The cost is \$25.  
 For further details or to reserve a spot, contact conference organizer Ed Raines:  
[ghs@peakpeak.com](mailto:ghs@peakpeak.com)

**Creede Reading List**

Richard C. Huston, *A Silver Camp Called Creede: A Century of Mining* (Montrose, CO: Western Reflections Pub. Co., 2005)

William H. Emmons and Esper S. Larsen, *Geology & Ore Deposits of the Creede District, Colorado*, USGS Bulletin 718 (Washington: GPO, 1923)

Edwin Lewis Bennet and Agnes Wright Spring, *Boom Town Boy in Old Creede, Colorado* (Chicago: Sage Books, 1966)

Nolie Mumey, *Creede: History of a Colorado Silver Mining Town* (Denver: Artcraft Press, 1949)

# MHA 2009 Conference Registration Form

## Creede, Colorado -- June 3-7, 2009

Your Name (for badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (for badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email / Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please list me in the conference packet

☐ I am a current member (2009 on mailing label)

Event	Cost per Attendee	Number Attending	Total per Event
Conference Registration (No charge for spouses) <i>Members = \$60, Non-Members = \$70</i>	\$60 / \$70		
MHA Annual Membership (U.S. / International)	\$25 / \$35		
Meal Package: Thursday Reception, Friday Awards Banquet, and Presidential Luncheon  Banquet (circle choice): Prime Rib, Teriyaki Salmon Filet, Chicken Picata	\$100 per adult / \$25 per child 12 & under		
Pre-Conference Geology Field Trip of the Eastern San Juan Volcanic Field (drive yourself or carpool; handout provided)	\$15		
Sunday Bus Tour: Portions of the Creede, Wagon Wheel Gap, and Lake City Mining Districts. Limited to 36 passengers (includes lunch) Sandwich (circle): Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham	\$45		
<b>Total Payment</b>			

Make checks payable to: *Mining History Association*  
(all payments must be in U.S. dollars)  
Mail completed registration form and payment to:

**MHA Creede 2009**  
**c/o Ed Hunter**  
**P.O. Box 186**  
**Victor, CO 80860**

Tour and banquet spaces are limited, so register early to guarantee availability.  
Questions about registration? Contact **Ed Hunter**, Local Arrangements  
[stoperat@ccvnet.net](mailto:stoperat@ccvnet.net)

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

## **First Class Mail**

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### **Upcoming Events**

#### **20th Annual Mining History Conference**

June 4-6, 2009

Creede, CO

<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org>

#### **2009 Vernacular Architecture Forum: "Mining Metropolis: An Island in a Stockmen's Paradise"**

June 10-13, 2009

Butte, MT

<http://www.vafweb.org>

#### **8th International Mining History Conference**

June 12-15, 2009

Redruth, Cornwall, Great Britain

<http://www.huss.ex.ac.uk/history/imhc/index.php>

#### **10th Cultural Heritage Symposium on Mining, Metallurgy, and Geosciences**

September 29-October 2, 2009

Freiberg, Saxony, Germany

#### **10th Meeting of Historians of Latin American Mining**

November 4-6, 2009

San Luís Potosí, México

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