



Summer/Fall 2016

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

Pay Dirt in Telluride

Telluride proved an amazing and successful venue for the Mining History Association 2016 annual conference. The facilities and amenities of The Peaks Resort and Spa were world class if not downright luxurious for many long-standing MHA members used to more modest accommodations. To be sure, for those who stayed at The Peaks Resort, the experience will not be soon forgotten. Other conference participants opted for lodgings in the town of Telluride itself, some in the heart of its National Historic Landmark District. Regardless of abode, members took full advantage of one of the nation's most scenic public transit systems, the free gondola connecting Telluride town with the Mountain Village. The two locations combined to form a very "walkable community," with most of our attendees' needs reachable without ever using their car (for this writer, the "morning commute" included a beautiful walk along the San Miguel River, a gondola ride up and over the mountain, and a short skip to the conference venue). Attendees were also presented with a wonderful mix of historic mining sites, museums, restaurants, and watering holes. All of the necessary requirements for a perfect MHA venue!

Perhaps most impressive and most memorable for many folks will be the incredible vistas of the surrounding San Juan Mountains. A bad view from any spot in the entire Telluride region seemingly does not exist – with enough snow remaining to send appropriate photos home to friends and family, but just enough melt to encourage exploration of the area's rich mining heritage. MHA will be hard-pressed to find a reception venue with the

panoramic mountain views we had at the rooftop patio at The Peaks Resort.

The conference content was varied, informative, and sometimes outright entertaining. Conference host Rudy Davison and Telluride historian Steve Lee kicked things off with presentations following the opening reception about the oft-misunderstood and unappreciated life of Telluride's own local mining and civic impresario Bulkeley Wells. The formal proceedings commenced on Friday morning and continued for a day and a half through a broad swath of mining country. Speakers examined a variety of local topics from Colorado's uranium history to the Sheridan and Tomboy mines in the San Juans. As usual, the conference attracted paper and presentation topics from across the globe, everything from the use of mining history themes to draw gamblers to American casinos, to the integration of women into Utah's United Miner Workers union in the 1970s and 1980s, and from copper production during World War I to the use of experimental archaeology to estimate historic mine production figures, as well as content on mining in California, Bolivia, and Mexico.

Perhaps most memorable for this writer was the Q&A following Saturday's session on "Mining Professionals" which included both a first-time presenter, Jeff Bartos, alongside one of our longest serving members, former MHA president and 2016 Mining Hall of Fame inductee Stan Dempsey. The interplay between these two scholars, along with input from the assembled members, underscored the great value of our annual gathering. Add to this an awards banquet keynote

Pay Dirt in Telluride

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address by MHA co-founder, former president, Rodman Paul Award recipient, and die-hard Cubs fan Duane Smith and it was quite an amazing span of geographic, temporal, and thematic research and reflection!

Telluride and western Colorado proved a wonderful playground for conference tours. Rudy Davison provided his expertise leading a driving tour of the immediate Telluride region. Commencing at the head of the Telluride Valley, the tour began with an overview of the mines, tunnels, aerial tramways, and mills which formed the arteries of mining above and through the region. The tour followed portions of the former Rio Grande Southern Railroad that served the Telluride area, up through portions of the Illium and Ophir Valleys. Throughout the journey, Rudy's knowledge and humor provided an exciting romp through regional mining history. A second post-conference trip focused on two specific sites, beginning with a 4WD journey up to the top of Bridal Veil Falls at the top of the Telluride Valley. After leaving the Jeeps behind, participants trekked further up the road for a behind-the-scenes tour of the interior of the 1907 Smuggler-Union power plant adjacent to the crest of the 365-foot waterfall. The second part of the field trip delivered attendees to the 1890 Ames Power Plant, first in the world to deliver AC power over long distance. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit Colorado uranium country as part of either a pre- or a post-conference tour. Offered in collaboration with the Rimrocker Historical Museum, the day-long trip visited some nearby radium and vanadium mining sites and then struck out for Long Park Mesa and the Paradox Basin to visit a variety of additional sites connected to production of strategic uranium from World War II through the 1970s. To experience the changes in elevation, terrain, and climate on this outing was invigorating, from the cool snow-capped mountains around Telluride to the arid mesas of the Colorado/Utah border.

Particular appreciations are due to Rudy Davison for his singlehanded vision, stewardship, and personal commitment to making the conference a success. Working with a variety of volunteers, both from the Association and the local Telluride community, all aspects of attendees' needs were accounted for. In recognition for his exemplary work above and beyond the call of conference host, Rudy was also acknowledged with the Ed Hunter Distinguished Service Award. Many thanks Rudy for all he did to make this conference memorable and engaging.

Erik Nordberg
2016-2017 MHA President

MHA Research Grants Awarded!

Bob Hutton, a Lecturer at the University of Tennessee, received a grant to perform research in Virginia and West Virginia on the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency and its role in coal-mining labor disputes.

John Baeten, a PhD candidate at Michigan Tech, received a grant to perform research on iron ore heritage on the Mesabi Range in Minnesota.

Nichelle Frank, a PhD candidate at the University of Oregon, received a grant to investigate historical preservation and environmental remediation in the mining towns of Butte, Montana, Globe, Arizona, and Leadville, Colorado.

The MHA is excited to support research on the history of mining and hence accepts applications focusing on any period and any geographical region. Applications for our competitive grants are due on April 15th of every year. For more information visit: <http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/ResearchGrants.htm>.

Mining History Association 2016-2017

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Bill Culver, past president
James E. Fell, treasurer
Brian Leech, secretary

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Eric Nystrom, 2014-2017
Jane Bardal, 2015-2018
Terry Humble, 2015-2018
Paul White, 2016-2019
Jennifer Hildebrand, 2016-2019
Dana Bennett, 2016-2019

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Eric Clements, journal editor
Barbara Clements, journal compositor, social media
Michael Kaas, website coordinator
Nathan Delaney, newsletter editor

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Brian Leech, 2015-2018
Cathleen Norman, 2016-2019

MHA Committees

Rodman Paul Award

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Duane Smith
Karen Vendl

Clark Spence & Mary Lee Spence Awards

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Keith Long
Robert Spude

Cherry Hunter Award

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Lynn Langenfeld
Mark Vendl
Karen Vendl
Silvia Pettem

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Ed Raines, Chair
Mark Langenfeld

MHA Research Grants Committee

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Besleme-Orrell Heritage Award

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Ginny Kilander
Stephanie Saager-Bourret

Budget & Finance Committee

Jay Fell, Chair ex officio
Lynn Langenfeld
Bob Spude
John Stewart
Mark Vendl
Stan Dempsey

Editorial Board/John Townley Award

Duane Smith, Chair
Silvia Pettem
Ron Brown
Jay Fell
Ron Limbaugh
Jeremy Mouat
Mark Vendl

Call for Presentations
28th Annual Conference
Mining History Association

15-19 June 2017
Fairbanks, Alaska

The Program Committee of the Mining History Association 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. Presentations that address mining history in Alaska and the Far North are particularly welcome.

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 Eric Nystrom, the program sessions committee chair, by November 30, 2016. Submission by email attachment is preferred.

The Program Committee for the MHA's 2017 conference in Fairbanks consists of: Jeremy Mouat (University of Alberta), Eric Nystrom (Chair, Arizona State University), Robert L. Spude (National Park Service, retired), and Paul White (University of Alaska-Anchorage).

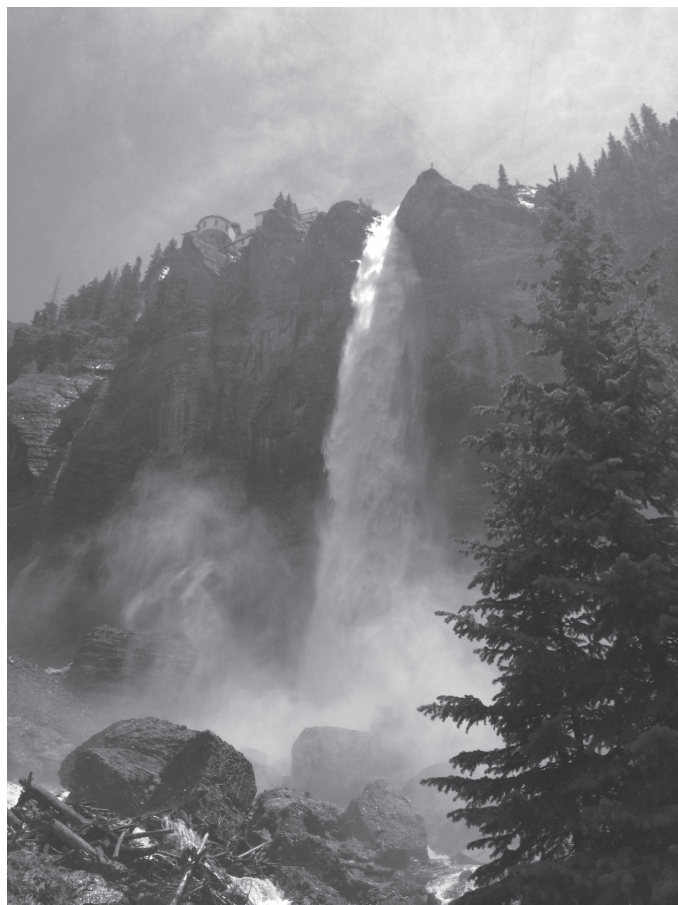
Eric Nystrom, MHA-Fairbanks Program Chair

eric.nystrom@asu.edu

Arizona State University, MC 2780
7271 Sonoran Arroyo Mall
Mesa, AZ 85212

Call for Volunteers

The MHA is run by volunteers. If you are a new member or a long-time member and want to get involved, here is your chance. The Rodman Paul Award, Research Grants, Budget & Finance, and Besleme-Orrell Heritage Award Committees are looking for new members. If you are interested, contact Erik Nordberg at erik.nordberg@wayne.edu.



Bridal Veil Falls, Telluride, Colorado



View from The Peaks Resort and Spa

Attention MHA Authors: Publicity Opportunity

Have you written a book on some aspect of mining history that you think your fellow members might find interesting? **The MHA Newsletter runs an annual column in the Fall issue with announcements of books on mining history written by our members** in the past year or two. These announcements supplement, but do not replace, our traditional list of publications and book reviews in the annual Mining History Journal, and serve as an additional way to bring your work to the attention of our membership.

How to participate

Send the complete bibliographic information (author, title, publisher, publisher location, year, number of pages, binding, price, and ISBN) plus a 100-150 word summary of the book (like you would use for a dust jacket) to Nathan Delaney at nathan.delaney@case.edu. Works of popular history, academic studies, poetry, fiction, and art are all welcome, as long as they concern the broad themes of mining history of interest to our society. The Newsletter reserves the right to edit all content. Submissions will be accepted throughout the year and printed in the Fall newsletter, which appears in September. **Authors must be members of the MHA.**

This year's submissions will run in the Winter newsletter and will be accepted until **November 15**--send your details right away!

New Editor for the Newsletter

As the new editor of *Mining History News*—and as a relatively new member of the MHA—it seems appropriate to offer a brief introduction. My name is Nathan Delaney and I am completing a Ph.D. in history at Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio, where I currently live with my wife. Here at *Mining History News*, I am taking over for Eric Nystrom, who is now editing the exciting new “Mining and Society” series for the University of Nevada Press.

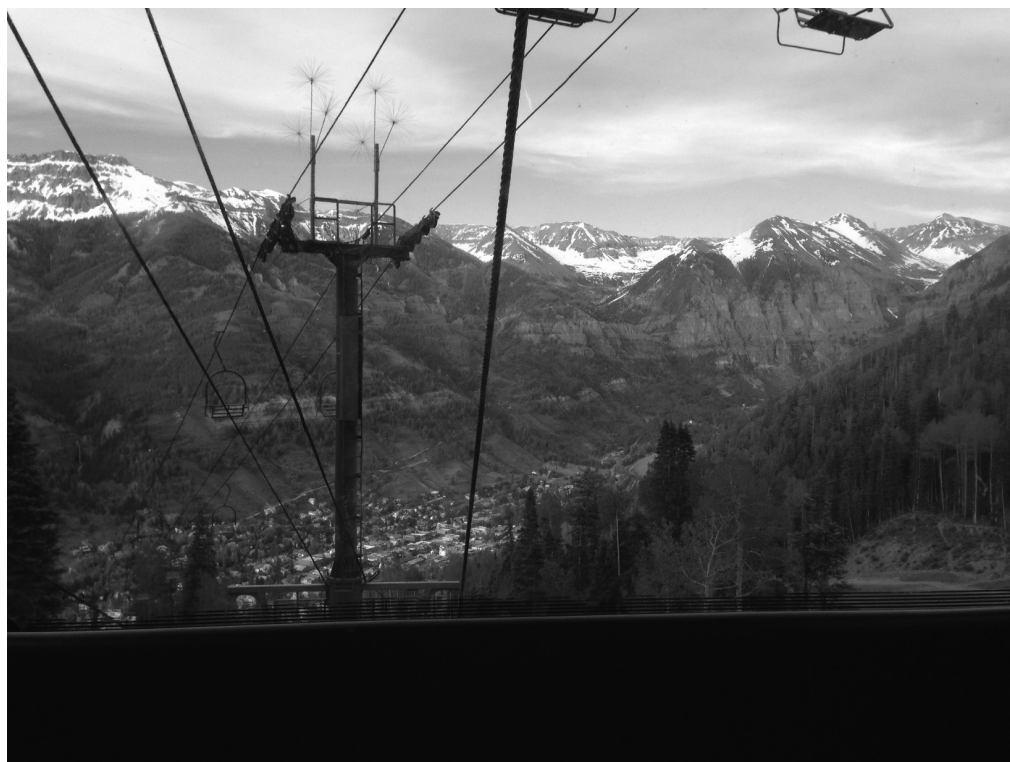
Before starting at Case Western Reserve, I received a B.A. in history at Wittenberg University and an M.A. in history from the University of Toledo. My dissertation project, “Copper Capitalism: The Origins and Making of a Global Trade in Metals,” explores the development of the modern copper trade before the First World War. I argue that the rise of the intermediary traders and the formation of the London Metal Exchange created a futures market in metals that limited the influence of large producers over the pricing of copper and other non-ferrous metals.

From 2012-2014, I was associate editor of the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, an online urban history encyclopedia. The website, ech.case.edu/, was founded in May 1998 and was among the first of its kind.

My personal interest in mining history stems from my childhood in a small town outside of Toledo, Ohio—a place as flat as the Great Lake it abuts. I grew up a bike ride away from a 140-year old limestone quarry. I recall being captivated by the size of the open mine as well as its maze of conveyors and large machinery. I am fortunate to be able to carry this interest into my work.

I look forward to seeing you all in Fairbanks next June or perhaps sooner. Please contact me with any questions or comments pertaining to the Newsletter by email at nathan.delaney@case.edu.

Sincerely,
Nathan



*City of Telluride
from Gondola*

Mining Archival Nuggets

In 1893, J. H. Bauerlein of Kansas City, Missouri wrote a letter to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany regarding the sale of property just south of Jasper containing lead, zinc, and silver ores. Joseph Bauerlein was a developer and speculator whose family immigrated from Bavaria in the 1850s. It was common knowledge amongst German-Americans at the time that the German Empire was actively seeking to expand its influence around the world by establishing both formal and informal colonies abroad, a foreign policy strategy established in 1891 known as *Weltpolitik*. Near the top of the Kaiser's list were properties rich in non-ferrous metals. Bauerlein's letter to the Kaiser reads:

Most Illustrious Sovereign, We respectfully submit for Your Majesty's consideration and approval the purchase of a tract of mineral land, containing Two thousand nine hundred acres, located in Newton County in the south-western portion of Missouri, on both sides of the "San Francisco and St. Louis Railroad," right in the heart of what is known as the "Lead and Zinc Mineral Belt of America." An expert examination reveals an almost inexhaustible deposit of lead and zinc ore on this tract; it will take a life time [*sic*] to exhaust the supply. We have quietly secured an option of purchase of the entire tract of land, and if Your Majesty will purchase it at Two hundred and fifty thousand Dollars The mines that are now in operation

in the immediate vicinity are unable to supply the demand, notwithstanding that they work day and night. We herewith enclose a miniature sketch of the tract. We refer Your Majesty to the "Missouri National Bank" of Kansas City, Missouri, as to our honesty and ability. Trusting that Your Majesty will favor us with an early reply, we are Your Majesty's Most Obedient Servants,
J. H. Bauerlein, Esq.

This unusual "archival nugget" was located at the Bundesarchiv-Lichterfelde in Berlin, Germany. Citation: R 901 7901 II 26744 "America: Bauerlein und Co. Kansas City." While there is no evidence that the German Empire ever purchased the property, the fact that the Kaiser's diplomat in St. Louis was ordered to investigate suggests that the *Weltpolitik* strategy was not restricted to exploiting developing nations.

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If you have an "archival nugget" that you would like to share with *Mining History News*, please send your quotation along with the proper citation and a brief bit of historical context to nathan.delaney@case.edu. Please keep total word count between 200 – 400 words.

We ask that your citation come from an archive, library, or museum that is open to the public. If practical, and with the proper permission, you may include a graphic scan of the original document.

*Mining History Association
323 Daniels Place
Cañon City, CO 81212*

Upcoming Events

11th International Mining History Congress

6-11 September 2016

Linares, Spain

<http://www.mining2016linares.com/>

Western History Association Conference

20-23 October 2016

St. Paul, MN

American Historical Association

5-8 January 2017

Denver, CO

2017 Mining History Association Conference

15-19 June 2017

Fairbanks, AK

2018 Mining History Association Conference

June 2018

Deadwood, SD

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 Nathan Delaney, nathan.delaney@case.edu.

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

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

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