

MINING HISTORY NEWS

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Experiencing Butte, Where Landscape and History Converge.

Have you ever thought about the messages that are conveyed by mining landscapes? Say you are driving into Butte, Montana, where MHA will hold its annual meeting this June. To get there, you may traverse miles of rural landscapes marked by farming, grazing, and timberlands. Then, as you near Butte and other mining towns in its immediate vicinity, the landscape changes. Here and there, piles of rock stand like bare hills, there are deep gashes and pits in the land, and densely-settled towns cluster in the shadow of headframes and mine buildings. Even if you fly into Butte, as many of us will, a look out the plane window will reveal striking changes as you near the city. As the plane nears Butte, the forested landscape of Central Montana yields to pockmarked topography like the Berkeley Pit's steep-sided crater. Soon, as you continue looking down for inspiration, a densely settled city clinging to hillsides comes into view. You are about to arrive in an anomaly, an ethnic industrial enclave that sprouted like a mushroom in God's country.

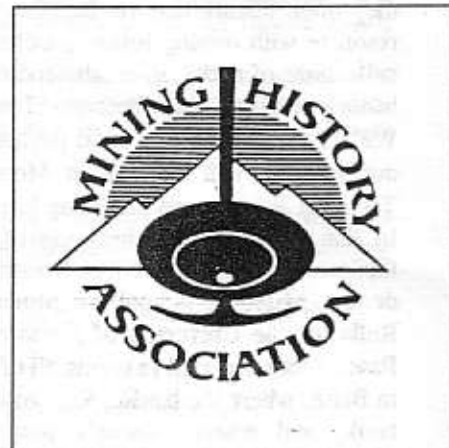
When Montana comes to mind, most people think of Big Sky, open cattle ranges, and pristine mountain ranges. Although an entire region like "Big Sky Country" may have its own character in the popular mind, mining landscapes present something different. Towns like Butte have a character all their own even though they have distant relatives that

look a lot like them. From South Dakota to South Africa, mining communities like Butte possess a similar enough signature for them to be branded immediately as "mining country." Thus it is that Butte is closer in appearance to Tonopah, Nevada, or Bisbee, Arizona, than it is to nearby Livingston and Missoula. As mining historians, we know and love these mining communities where history is found not only in documents but also in the landscape and in the faces of people who live here. Although mining is a relatively recent shaper of landscapes like those we'll experience in Butte, recall these words from the Book of Job in the Old Testament – that the miner "overturns mountains by the roots," "cuts out channels in the rocks," and "binds up the streams so that they do not trickle." He could have been writing about Butte.

In Montana we will experience a wide range of mining landscapes as part of the MHA meeting. Butte seems solid, dare I say permanent, today -- but it was once a boomtown where placer gold mining lured the hopeful before copper became king. One of our MHA tours will take us to Virginia City, Montana, where the state historical society and others are actively engaged in efforts to preserve a classic mining boomtown that went bust before it became a regional center like Butte. I'd venture to say that when most people think of a western mining town, they think more of nearby Virginia City, with its boomtown look, than Butte. Here in Virginia City, the landscape – or perhaps streetscape is a better term --

conveys a sense of energy as false front facades and signs crowd out each other. For those who will stay closer to Butte, some features of a boomtown are visible in Hell Roarin' Gulch, a simulated mining boomtown featuring some restored and some simulated buildings. Hell Roarin' Gulch is part historic village and part theme park, and is worth visiting as it reveals those elements of place that are selected to convey images about the past. I have always felt that we need to know more about, and appreciate, such themed places.

In Butte itself, we will see classic examples of mining landscapes and tour historic mines. As we move around the city, we'll be reminded that this locale that NEVER would have seen so much activity, and become home to so many people, had it not been for mining. I've been to Butte on several occasions, but I return whenever I have the chance because I learn something new every



time I visit. In Butte you will experience a mature mining community whose landscape shows evidence of investment and permanence. That is apparent in the many solid brick buildings and the ponderous mining infrastructure there. When you are in Butte, you find yourself in one representative of mature towns from Johannesburg in the South African Rand to Broken Hill in New South Wales, Australia. The names of those exotic communities resonate with mining history, as does Butte. Mention the name Butte (or Kimberly, or Bisbee) to a miner and an image will take form; that image will include features created by both corporate wealth and miners' hard work. These mining centers are often the sites of rich mining history that contains many contrasts -- people of many different races and cultures; conflict between management and labor; ongoing tension between the temporary (quick gain and rapid wealth) and permanent (enduring community life and the raising of families). That is part of the edgy charm of places like Butte.

In Butte as in many communities where mining was "here to stay," a school of mines developed. The Montana School of Mines at Montana Tech is a case in point. It sits on a hill at the edge of downtown Butte and is the place where generations of miners learned the technical aspects of mining and metallurgy. Although these mining schools have often changed in character to accommodate non-mining curriculum, they often feature historic facilities that resonate with mining history, including collections of rocks, minerals, and ores; historic exhibits; and collections of maps. We are fortunate that a good portion of our meeting will be held at Montana Tech, for it is steeped in mining history. In that regard, it reminds me of the facilities at Michigan Tech in Houghton, or the Missouri School of Mines in Rolla, or the University of Texas at El Paso. I look forward to seeing all of you in Butte, where the landscape is an open book, and where mining's past and mining history's future converge.

Richard Francaviglia
University of Texas-Arlington

Butte, June 14-17, 2001

The conference begins Thursday afternoon, June 14th, with early registration at the Fenlin Hotel lobby in "Uptown" Butte's historic district. In the evening ARCO will sponsor the welcoming reception to be held at the historic Mill Building on the campus of Montana Tech.

Sessions will be held in the Montana Tech Library Auditorium Friday and Saturday. A Friday afternoon tour of the Anselmo mine follows. Our Awards Banquet will convene at the Ramada Inn, "downtown." We have as our banquet speaker Montana native and dean of mining history **Clark C. Spence**, professor emeritus, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Presidential luncheon, Saturday, will be held at the Montana Tech student union.

Saturday, after the sessions, we will have two after-hours events. Butte is known for its pubs and ethnic neighborhoods. We will convene in the lobby of the historic Finlen house for a pub crawl downtown.

That evening too we will hold two after dinner events in the grand hall at the Finlen. **Robert Sorgenfrie**, Archivist, Colorado School of Mines, will present on the Best of the Mining Technical Books, historic and otherwise. **Ron Limbaugh** will follow with a "what is it" open discussion on mine machinery or whatever found at mining sites. Bring your questions and slides of puzzling equipment. Ron will have a quiz with prize (supplied by MHA, small enough for one's luggage).

Sunday we have three optional all day tours. Tour 1, led by Mr. Industrial Archeology, **Fred Quivick** will visit the industrial sites of historic Butte and Anaconda. Tour 2, led by Forest Service archeologist **Mary Williams** will tour the high country mining sites, including the Charter Oak mill. Tour 3, coordinated by Bob Spude will follow the

gold rush trails to Bannack, a ghost town now state park, and Virginia City, one-time placer gold camp and territorial capital.

Thanks. Anyone who has organized a conference knows there are many hands that help. Mary Williams of the Forest Service proposed the conference and followed through with much support from a Local Arrangements Committee: Ellen Crain, Ann Gilmore, Connie Kenney, Barb Kornet, Mary McCormick, Dori Skrukud.

Butte Hotels

We will not have a conference hotel. Events will occur primarily at Montana Tech, except the historic Finlen Hotel downtown and the Ramada Inn will be venues for registration, banquet, and after hours. Both have offered good rates if you mention the MHA conference. We also suggest the following:

Finlen Hotel, 800-729-5461; 406-723-5461; \$38 to \$50

Ramada Inn, 800-332-8600; 406-494-7666; \$59

Copper King Mansion B & B; 406-782-7580; \$55-\$95

Scott Inn B&B; 800-844-2952; 406-723-7030; special rates if all 7 rooms taken by MHAers.

There are many chain hotels; see www.butteinfo.org; call 406-723-3177

The Mining History Association Newsletter

Denver, Colorado

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$25 per year. Please send dues to MHA, Post Office Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215.

Submissions for publication in the newsletter are welcome. Write to Robert L. Spude, Editor.

Butte Program, June 14-17, 2001

Thursday, June 14

3-5 Registration at Finlen Hotel

3-5 Open House, World Museum of Mining

5-7 Welcoming Reception, Montana Tech's Mill Building and Mineral Museum, hosted by ARCO

Friday, June 15 All Sessions at Montana Tech Library Auditorium

7-8 am MHA Journal editorial board breakfast, at Montana Tech Student Union

8 to 11:30 am. Registration, Library Auditorium, Montana Tech

8:30-9:45, "Butte", chair tba, James S. Knowlson and Art Montana, "The Final Days of Butte as a Major Mining Camp"; James D. Sells, Tucson, Arizona "The Rise and Demise of the Anaconda Company"; Pat Kennelly, Butte, Montana, "Butte Mining District, Montana: Combining Special Information from Past and Present with Geographic Information Systems"

9:45-11:00 am, "Copper Connections: From Ireland to Michigan and Montana" Erick Nordberg, chair, Michigan Tech, John Morris, Geological Survey of Ireland, "The Allihies Story: Copper Boom to Emigration"; William H. Mulligan, Murray State University, "Irish Miners in the Michigan Country: New Home or Way Station on the Way West"; Des Cowman, County Waterford, Ireland, "The Big-wheelers: From Bunmahon to Butte"

11:00-Noon am, "Mining Site Preservation", chair tba, Jeff Safford, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, "Alder Gulch Mining History: Historic Resource Management by the Montana Heritage Commission, Virginia City"; G. J. Drew, South Australia, "Broken Hill - The Richest Lode: History and Heritage Interpretation"; Jeffrey Pecka, Centennial, Colorado, "Gold Hill: Colorado's First Mining District, A Preservation Opportunity on the Brink?"

Noon-1:30 Pasty Lunch and Introduction to Afternoon Tour of Butte, Mark Reeves, Butte Preservation officer.

1:30 - 4:30 Tour: Anselmo Mine, Butte neighborhoods, and possible underground tour

4:30-5:30 MHA business meeting Ramada Inn Copper King

6:00-8:00 pm, Reception and Awards Banquet at Ramada Inn Copper King, Speaker: Clark C. Spence, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign, "Reflections on 50 Years of Mining History"

Saturday, June 16 All Sessions at Montana Tech Library Auditorium

8 am to Noon Registration at Montana Tech Library Auditorium

8:00-9:15 "Life, Death and Labor," chair tba, Cathleen Norman, Lakewood, Colorado, "Coal Camps and Boarding Houses, Lifestyles and Lodging in Lafayette, Colorado 1890-1940,"; Howard Morris, St Paul, Minnesota, "Butte's 1917 Granite Mountain/Speculator Mine Disaster"; Philip J. Mellinger, "Asian Miners in White Unions: Was It Altruism or Expediency"

9:15-10:30, "Mining People" chair tba, George A. Wheeldon, "J. Ross Browne, the First U. S. Mining Commissioner, or Chronicles of the Ultimate Travel Writer"; Judy Dykman, Salt Lake City, Utah, "Utah's Silver Queen, Suzanne Egera Bransford Emery Holmes Delitch Engalitcheff"; Peter L. Siems, Moscow, Idaho, "An Engineer's Note-Book on the Custer and Yellow Jacket Mines, Idaho, 1879-1882."

10:30-Noon "Reflecting on Labor's Past: A Roundtable on the Historiography of Mining Labor History." Jeremy Mouat, chair, Elizabeth Jameson, Imperial Oil-Lincoln McKay Chair of American Studies, University of Calgary; Laurie K. Mercier, Assistant Professor of History, Washington State University; Jeremy Mouat, Associate Professor of History, Athabasca University; James McBride, Arizona State University

Noon-1:30 President's Lunch at Montana Tech Student Union, Richard Francaviglia, "Into the Crucible: Mining's Cultural Legacy in the Intermountain West."

1:30-2:45 pm "Mining Sites Transformed: Environment, Landscape, and Community", Duane Smith, chair; Christopher Huggard, "Biological Versus Cultural Preservation: The Case of Mining Sites within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument"; Eric Clements, Southeast Missouri State University, "Black Hawk's Jackpot Decade: A Metamorphosis in Three Acts"; David Wolff, Black Hills State University, "Out of Hardrock and Into Dirt: The Coal Mines of Southern Wyoming"

2:45-4:30 pm "Technology and Invention", chair tba, Ed Hunter, Victor, Colorado, "Dredging Thaw Fields of the Far North"; Mark Langenfeld, Madison, Wisconsin, "Old Mines and New Science: How Mining History (and Serendipity) Triggered Recent Breakthroughs in Microbiology"; Edmond G. Deal, Montana Tech, Butte, "Frasch Sulfur Mining: A Twentieth Century Phenomenon"; Robert Trennert, Arizona State University, "Aerial Tramways."

4:30-5:30 pm "Gold Rushes", chair tba; Andrew E. Stroud, Virginia City, Nevada, "The Gold Rush Period in Butte, Montana, 1864-1874; Daniel Hart, Reno, Nevada, "Reasons for the Incredible Rise and Fall of the Meadow Lake (Excelsior) Mining District, California: A Look at the Role of Mining Infrastructure and Media in Mining Booms"; Patrick R. Chapin, University of Manitoba, "Mine Speculation During Canada's Golden Age, 1890s-1900s"

5:45 Pub Crawl with Ellen Crain, Butte-Silver Bow Archives, start at Finlen Hotel

7:30 Evening Speaker, at Finlen Hotel, Robert Sorgenfrei, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, "What are the Ten Top Books on Mining Technique and Practice?"; Ron Limbaugh, Stockton, California, "What is that?" mining machinery slide show open discussion, guessing game. Bring your slides.

Sunday June 17, Tours leave from Montana Tech Library parking lot

Tour 1) Industrial Butte-Anaconda with Fred Quivick

Tour 2) High Country Mining, Charter Oak Mill, with Mary Williams

Tour 3) Montana Gold Rush, Bannack-Virginia City, Bob Spude coordinator

Events:

Thursday:

Registration at Finlen Hotel
Reception at Mill Building
Montana Tech

Friday:

Sessions at Montana Tech
Auditorium
Banquet at Ramada

Saturday:

Sessions at Montana Tech
Auditorium
Eve Events at Finlen Hotel

Sunday:

Tours depart from Montana
Tech

World Museum of Mining & Hell Roarin' Gulch



12 Acres of Outdoor and Indoor
Displays in a True Mining Atmosphere

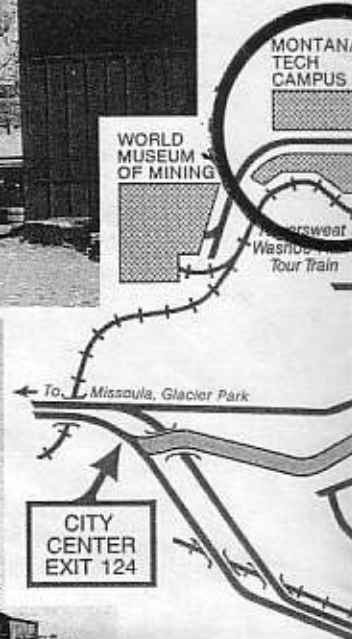
Gift Shop - Picnic Tables

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

HOURS: DAILY 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.
APRIL 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31 - 7 DAYS A WEEK

CLOSED - NOV. - MARCH
Phone (406) 723-7211

EXIT 126, North on Montana Street, West on Park Street
Behind Montana Tech Campus



See De

FINLEN HOTEL and MOTOR INN

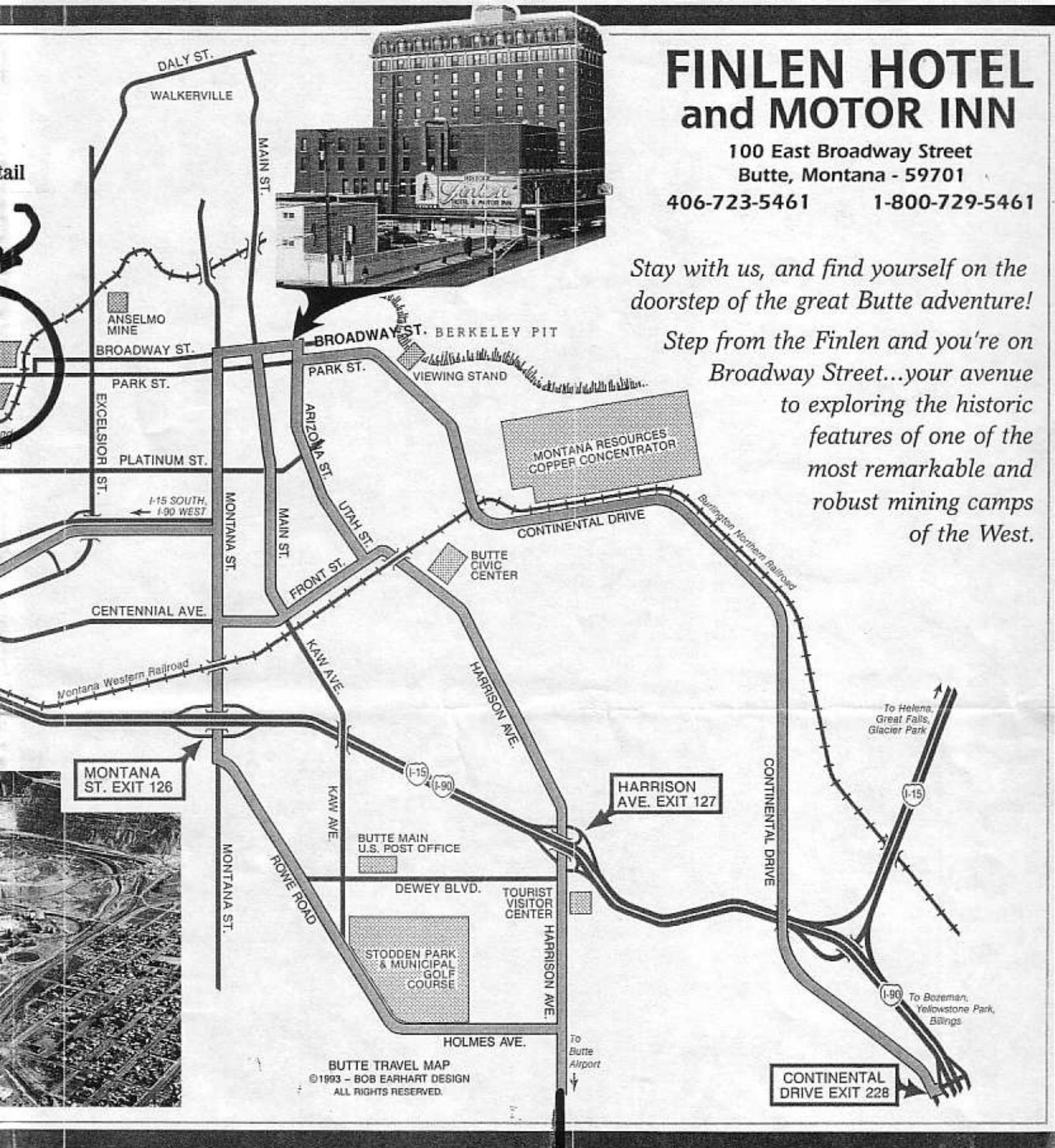
100 East Broadway Street
Butte, Montana - 59701

406-723-5461

1-800-729-5461

*Stay with us, and find yourself on the
doorstep of the great Butte adventure!*

*Step from the Finlen and you're on
Broadway Street...your avenue
to exploring the historic
features of one of the
most remarkable and
robust mining camps
of the West.*



Ramada Inn

MontanaTech

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MINERAL MUSEUM

The minerals on display constitute only a small portion of the entire collection of minerals from throughout the world, beginning with the purchase of 135 specimens in 1910. The mineral collection has grown largely through the generosity of individual collectors.



Rocky Mountain Minerals

Although it is impossible to generously display the entire collection of 15,000 specimens, a large number are incorporated in the exhibit. At present, about 1,200 specimens are displayed in the Museum.

The largest Centennial Gold Nugget, weighing 27.425 Troy ounces, was recently donated to the Mineral Museum for permanent display. This

very large nugget was found in September, 1989 during placer mining in the Highgate Mountains south of Butte.



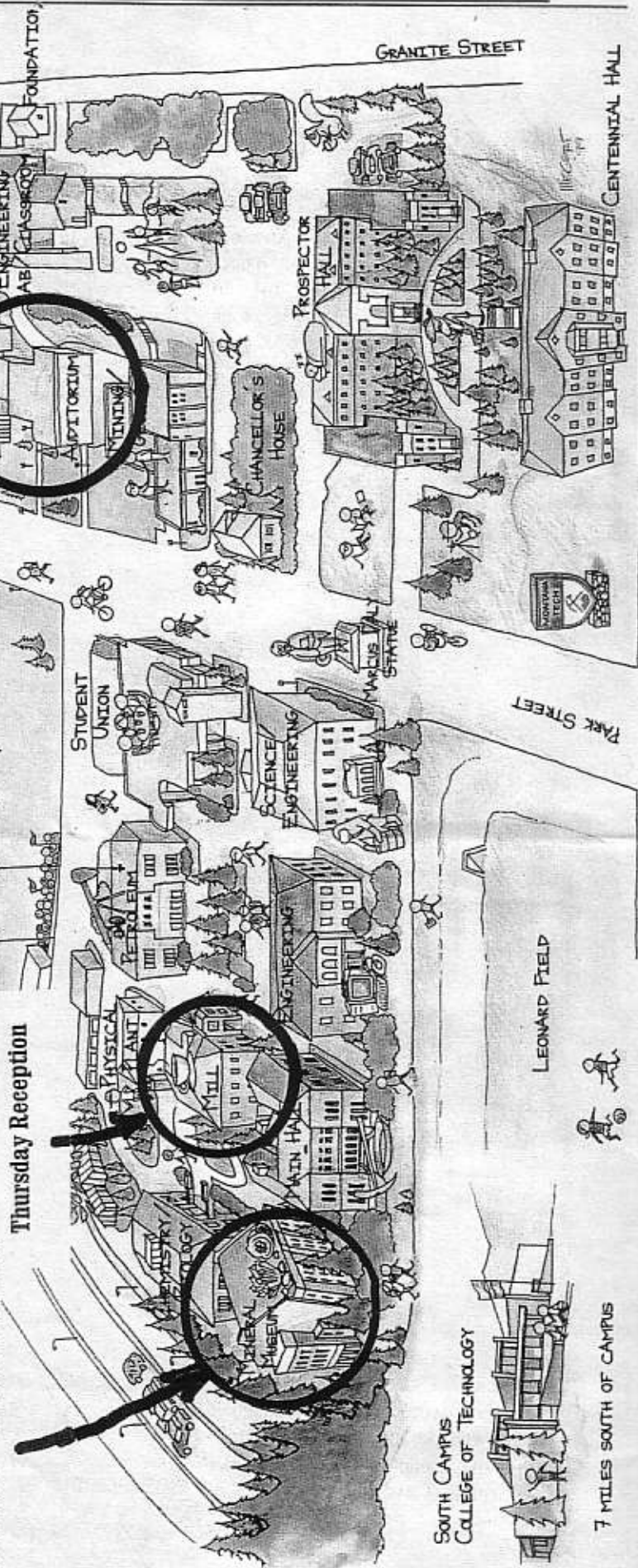
The largest Centennial Gold Nugget

A display of fluorescent minerals is exhibited in a separate room. Minerals in these cases are illuminated in both long and short wavelength ultraviolet light.

Two other cases feature special minerals. One is the exhibit of minerals from Butte, and the other is a display of some of the wide variety of minerals found in Montana.

Don't miss visiting the World Museum of Mining situated just west of the Montana Tech campus.

Thursday Reception



Tours

Friday, June 15:

On Friday afternoon the folks of Butte have organized a tour of the Anselmo mine and the surrounding area. There may be an opportunity to go underground. So, if you have your own equipment please bring it along. If you prefer staying above ground, there will be an optional tour of the neighborhoods and the social life of Butte.

Sunday, June 17:

On Sunday we will have three optional tours. Each will depart from the Library parking lot at Montana Tech at 8:00 a.m. and return by dinner time. Each tour is very different from the other. Please sign up as soon as possible since numbers may be limited.

Tour 1: Industrial Butte-Anaconda

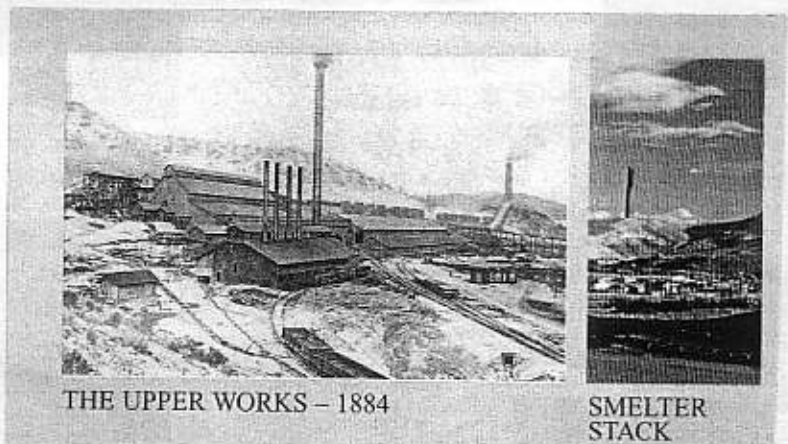
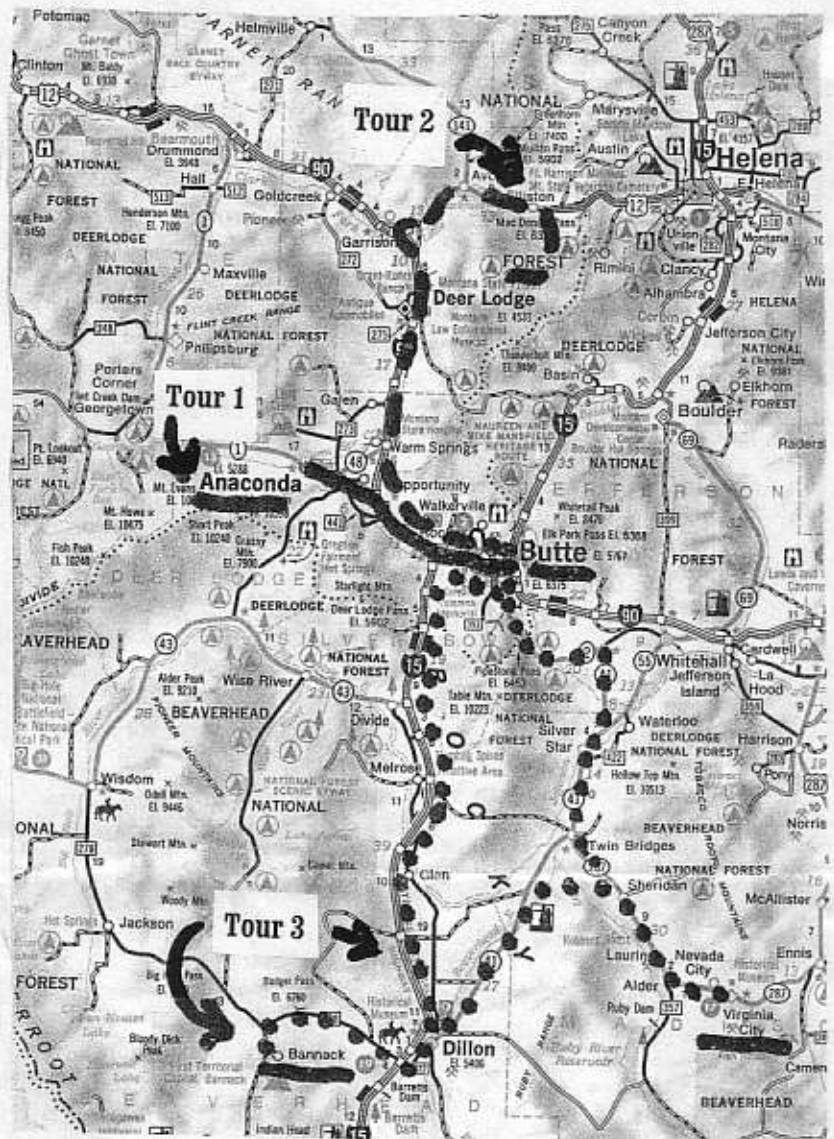
Frad Quivick, past president of SIA, and the folks of Butte have organized a tour of the industrial remains of the copper giant. The tour will include prominent mining, milling and smelting sites in Butte and Anaconda. A box lunch will be provided.

Tour 2: High Country Mining

Forest Service archeologist Mary Williams has organized a tour of mining sites within the forest, especially the Charter Oaks mill, a standing plant from the early twentieth century. The tour will stop briefly in Anaconda then head up through the Deer Lodge Valley then into the high country. A box lunch will be provided.

Tour 3: Montana Gold Rush

Bannack and Virginia City were two of the biggest placer gold strikes in the Rockies. This tour will visit the two former gold camps, one now a state park and the other a place under restoration by the state's Montana Historic Preservation Commission. This tour will operate differently; participants will caravan in their own vehicle; expect four hours loop driving time. Lunch will be on your own at a Virginia City café. Bob Spude coordinator.



THE UPPER WORKS - 1884

SMELTER
STACK

Editor Needed

After a decade or more of compiling *Mining History News*, the editor is stepping down. The MHA is in need of a volunteer to take on the task of compiling and mailing the *Mining History News* four times a year. The volunteer should have their own computer, some writing/editing skills, and time to donate, approximately four weekends per year. The MHA newsletter is the organization's record of events, method of announcing elections and dues, and the registration packet for the annual conference. The editor works with the president to ensure a president's page is inserted, other officers who donate pieces, and, especially, the treasurer, Denver office coordinator, membership chair, and MHA secretary. If interested please contact Bob Spude at Spudes@msn.com or 2 Alcalde Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Australians Meet

Mel Davies of the Australian Mining History Association writes that the group will meet Kalgoorlie, September 24-8, not Adelaide as mentioned in the last newsletter. The Australian MHA is a very active organization with members interested in and active in the U. S. MHA as well. Expect to see at least one of our friends from Down Under at our annual meetings; and expect a representative to show up at Butte. The history of comparative copper mining regions is the topic of the paper of Greg Drew from New South Wales.

TICCIH Meet

Initial plans for a joint meeting or tandem meeting with the mining history sub branch of TICCIH have had to be cancel for various reasons.

Request for Help

Sandy Wilbur writes that she is following the career of William Bradford Crane through the mining regions of Nevada - Eureka, Virginia City, and Esmeralda - Silver City, Idaho, Baker, Oregon and Copper City, California. She has original letters sent by Crane and is trying to put them in context, ca. 1860-1880. She wishes to correspond with other researchers who might provide light on these mining regions and the personalities. She is willing to share the contents of Crane's letters with other researchers. Her primary goal is to compile a history of the McCully-Crane ventures in the West (besides mining they operated steamboats on the Columbia and ranged cattle in eastern Oregon. She can be reached by e-mail at: symbios@ix.netcom.com

Mining History Association
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Denver, Colorado 80215

