MHA in Michigan's Copper Country

Don't miss a great opportunity to visit Michigan's fabulous Copper Country and tour one of the nation's premier mining districts. The Eighth Annual Mining History Association Conference will meet in Houghton, Michigan, June 5-8 and we're putting the finishing touches on what will surely be an interesting meeting.

Houghton is in the center of the Keweenaw Peninsula, a mineral-rich piece of Michigan's Upper Peninsula that juts forty miles into the south shore of Lake Superior. Natural elements, including timber, low rolling hills, the big lake, as well as countless streams and inland lakes, combine to make this one of the nation's overlooked gems. Those attending the conference may wish to plan a few extra days to enjoy some fishing, camping, touring, or even a visit to Isle Royale National Park. For information about the park contact Superintendent, 800 E. Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931.

Michigan's copper mining legacy dates to the prehistoric period. Early Jesuit missions and federal explorations of the upper lakes region helped to spread rumors of mineral riches, but it wasn't until Douglass Houghton's geological survey of 1840 that the copper deposits were described in any scientific detail.

During the course of the following century and a half, companies like Quincy, Tamarack, and Calumet & Hecla would rise to worldwide prominence, lining the pockets of many families whose capital would prove vital to development of western mines. Having only abandoned the last of its native copper mines in the late 1960's, the region contains a surprising range of sites and museums for the modern tourist.

Conference attendees interested in reading about the copper country may want to dip into the following: Larry Lankton's Cradle to Grave: Life, and Work and Death at the Lake Superior Copper Mines (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991) for a clearer understanding of Copper Country mining and social history. Lankton, MTU professor and local authority on the region's history, should have a new book (Beyond the Boundaries) available at the conference and will be the featured speaker at the Friday awards banquet.

Biographies of figures central to the discovery and early development of the Keweenaw district can be found in David Krause's The Making of a Mining District: Keweenaw Native Copper, 1500-1870 (Detroit: Wayne State University Press 1992).

Other out-of-print titles worth tracking down include William Gates' Michigan Copper and Boston Dollars and an illustrated history of the Quincy Mining Company, Old Reliable, by Lankton and Charles Hyde (Hancock: Quincy Mine Hoist Association, 1982).

A more exhaustive list of sources is available from Erik Nordberg at (906) 487-2505 or via e-mail at copper@mtu.edu.

Hotel

The conference hotel is the Best Western-Franklin Square Inn, which has secured a conference rate of $59.00 per night. The Franklin Square Inn is located in downtown Houghton, a short walk from the Michigan Tech campus. You may reach them for reservations toll free at 1-800-528-1234 or directly at 906-487-1700. Please indicate that you are attending the Mining History Conference. The hotel has a swimming pool, a restaurant and lounge overlooking Portage Lake, and also offers luxury suites at an additional cost.

Houghton is the site of Keweenaw National Historical Park, one of the newest units in the National Park system. Though not an up-and-running park (they are in the general management planning stages), information about the park is available from the Superintendent at P.O.Box 471, Calumet, MI 49913.
Northwest Mesaba Airlink flies into Houghton County with a total of six arrivals and departures daily from Minneapolis and Detroit. There is a slightly shortened schedule on Sundays. If you are planning to rent a car and do some touring in the area, it may be cheaper to fly into Marquette, Michigan, a two-hour drive east of Houghton.

Marquette Airport is serviced by Northwest Mesaba Airlift to Minneapolis and Detroit, and by United Express to Chicago.

Marquette Airport is serviced by National Car Rental (1-800-227-7368) and Hertz (1-800-654-3131). National also has a desk at the Houghton County Airport and Avis’s Hancock office (1-800-831-2847) can also make cars available for airport connections.

Travelers are reminded that Houghton and Marquette are smaller cities and may have limited availability for rental cars. You are advised to make rental car reservations early and confirm specific arrangements prior to arrival.

Houghton and Hancock are situated on opposite sides of Portage Lake, a thin inland waterway cutting through the Keweenaw Peninsula. Copper Country winters are known for their snowfall (last year they received 350”) and the summers are mild, with northerly breezes off Lake Superior. Additional information about Houghton, the surrounding area, other accommodations and dining can be found in a visitors packet available from the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce (1-800-338-7982). Those planning extended tours of the region may wish to contact the Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association (1-800-562-7134) for a copy of their “UP Travel Planner.”

Ho for the Caledonia!

A post-conference field trip into the Caledonia Mine near Mass and Greenland, Michigan has been arranged with Richard Whitteman of Red Metal Minerals for Monday, June 9. This is currently a working specimen mine, but has a rich history (since opening in 1863) as a copper mine. A choice of two trips will be offered: The first is to the Knowltont workings, and is only for those in good physical condition (as it involves climbing several steep slopes and considerable distance through old drifts). It is an excellent opportunity to obtain photos of old ore cars and wood rail from the turn of the century. For safety reasons, this trip will be limited to eight persons.

The second trip will be to the Nebraska workings. This area bears excellent evidences of hand steel drilling. For the mineral collectors, there is also the possibility of finding nice specimens of dolomite (for which the Caledonia Mine is famous), copper and, for the lucky, silver. Approximately 20 people can be accommodated on this trip.

The cost for the Knowlton trip is $50, and for the Nebraska trip $30. A pasty lunch (one of the best in the U.P.) is $5. Both trips will be about 4 hours in length and will start at 9:00 A.M. The mine temperature is about 46°F. Knee-high boots (the mine is wet) are required for the Knowlton and strongly recommended for the Nebraska. Hard hats and mine lamps will be provided by the mine. Sign-up will be at conference registration on a first come basis and maps to the mine will be provided. Questions? Call — Lynn Langenfeld at work: 608-252-4192 or home: 608-274-8242.

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.
Eighth Annual Conference - Mining History Association  
June 5-8, 1997, Houghton, Michigan

June 5, Thursday
2:30 - 4:30  Registration, Franklin Square Inn
5:00 - 6:45  Welcoming Reception and Open House held concurrently at the MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections and the Seaman Mineral Museum, MTU Campus
7:00  Opening Session at the ROTC Graduate Center, MTU Campus  
Speaker: Tom Rosemeyer, “Great Mines of the Copper Country”

June 6, Friday
8:00 - 5:00  Registration, Franklin Square Inn
8:30 - 1:00  Tour of Quincy Mine, Hancock, including pasty lunch
1:30 - 2:55  Session 1, Franklin Square Inn, “Nevada and the West”  
Chair: Duane Smith  
Ronald Reno, “Smelting and the Problem of Fuel in the Eureka District, Nevada”
Randall Rote, “Chinese Small-Scale Mining in the American West 1848-1900”

3:00 - 3:40  Session 2, Franklin Square Inn, “Arizona and Colorado”  
Chair: Ed Hunter;  
Lew Orrell, “Kentucky Camp Placer Mining”
Karen and Mark Vendel, “The Sweet Home Mine – Alma, Colorado”

3:45 - 4:30  Session 3, Franklin Square Inn, “Lead Mining”  
Chair: Mark Langenfeld;  
John A. Campbell and John M. Kelly, “A Mining History of Jo Davies County, Illinois”
Philip Millhouse, “Native American Lead Mining in the Upper Mississippi Valley”

4:45 - 5:30  Mining History Association Business Meeting, Franklin Square Inn
6:00 - 7:00  Reception at the Franklin Square Inn, sponsored by Copper Range

June 7, Saturday
8:00 - 10:00  Registration, Franklin Square Inn
8:30 - 9:55  Session 4, Franklin Square Inn, “Copper Mining”  
Chair: Karen Vendel;  
David J. Krause, “What Good is Native Copper, Anyway?”
Kenneth Kutz, “Red Gold”
David Landon, “Ohio Trap Rock Mine, 1848-1858”
Frank Stone, “America’s First Miners: Indians and Copper Mining”

10:00 - 11:25  Session 5, Franklin Square Inn, “Urbanization, Women & Mining”  
Chair: Bob Trennert;  
Nancy Beth Fisher, “A House is Not a Home”
Lynn Bjorkman & Arnold Alanen, “Shaping the Land, Modeling Communities: Gwinn and Calumet, MI”
Richard Franchaviglia, “In Her Image: Some Reflections on Gender and Power in Mining History”
Sandra Battaglini, “Don’t Go Down in the Mines, Mamma: Women in Production at Inco During WWII”

10:00 - 11:00  Jane’s Magical Mystery Tour for Mining Widows and Widowers: A little of this, a little of that, but no mines, guaranteed! (space limited)
11:45 - 1:15  Presidential Luncheon, Franklin Square Inn, Speaker: Bob Trennert, President, Mining History Association
1:30 - 2:55  Session 6, Franklin Square Inn, “Mining Populace”  
Chair: Mark Vendel;  
Theodore Hull, “Electronic Records in the National Archives Relevant to Research on Mining”
Ron Limbaugh, “Education vs. Experience: Mining Engineers, Geologists, & Arrogance of Professionalism”
Homer Milford and J. Scott Alanbach, “Hand Drilling: The Record from Western Mines”

3:00 - 4:30  Session 7, Franklin Square Inn, “Ontario”  
Chair: Bob Spade;  
Guy Gaudreau, “International Nickel Company and Noranda Mines’ Workforce”
Karey Reilly, “Italian Workers at the International Nickel Company, Copper Cliff, Ontario”
Patrick Chapin, “Northwestern Ontario Gold Mining”

June 8, Sunday
8:30 - 8:00  Tour of the Keweenaw Peninsula: Meet at the Franklin Square Inn for all-day bus tour featuring a walking tour of Calumet and lunch in Calumet (provided), stops at other historical copper mining sites and dinner in Copper Harbor (on your own). Return to Houghton by 8:00 p.m.
Michigan's COPPER COUNTRY
Mining History Assoc
Eighth Annual Meet
June 5-8, 1997
Houghton, Michigan
Recent publications on the history of mining

The following list contains recent articles, chapters and dissertations that relate to the history of mining. It includes all types of mining in North America. Thanks to those who sent in suggestions for this installment. We welcome citations for inclusion in the next update.

compiled by Lyssa Wegman-French


Dempsey, Stanley. "Mining Law Update." Mining Engineering 49, no. 2 (February 1997): 42-44. [Includes an overview of major moments in the history of mining laws in the West.]


Petit, Michael H. "Hauling Freight into the 20th Century by Jack Line." *Journal of the West* 36, no. 1 (January 1997): 82-91. [The subject is linked to mining since heavy wagon freighting brought mining machinery and supplies to towns not served by railroads.]


Sprout, Robert L. "Looking Back at 'The Rush to the Rockies': Preserving Fort 1860s Gold Camps." *Journal of the West* 35, no. 4 (October 1996): 7-17. [Virginia City, MT; Buckskin Joe, CO; Walker, AZ; and South Pass City, WY.]


Zajaczk, Anna M. "Labor Activism and Industrial relations in the Coal-Mining Industries of the United States, Great Britain and Poland." Ph.D. diss., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1995.

Thanks
Local arrangements for the 1997 are being coordinated by Erik and Jane Nordberg at Michigan Technological University in Houghton (e-mail at copper@mtu.edu). They have been working at putting together a good mix of sessions, social activities and tours, and encourage MHA members to make the trek to the north country for what is sure to be a wonderful meeting. Erik is the University Archivist with the MTU Archives and has made presentations on Michigan-related topics at past MHA meetings.

Thanks are also due the program committee members. The chair, Duane Smith of Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado, and committee members, Lynn Langenfeld of Madison, Wisconsin and Clark Spence of Champaign, Illinois, have pulled together an engaging group of presenters and topics. Once again the number of papers submitted has risen, and the confines of our day-and-a-half program are being pushed to the limit.

Thanks to Donors
The Seaman Mineralogical Museum and MTU Archives will supply refreshments at the joint opening reception on Thursday, June 5. A generous donation of funds from Inmet will underwrite the reception preceding Friday’s awards banquet. Inmet owns Copper Range Company which operates the White Pine mine in Ontonagon County, Michigan.

Shafts and Adits
The Quincy Mining Company number two shaft descends to a maximum depth of 9200 feet on the incline, or a vertical depth of 6400 feet. Begun in 1860, East Adit at the mine is now used as an experimental mine by Michigan Tech’s engineering school.

Association News
The nominating committee will convene in Houghton to discuss potential candidates for the fall election. If interested in serving or wish to nominate someone, please write Home Milford, chair, nominating committee, MHA, P. O. Box 150300.

The recent move of secretary Bob Spade to Santa Fe took longer than expected. Everything is up and running now, though. Jay Fell, treasurer, Lysa Wegman-French, council member, and Glenn Cook, membership committee chair have taken over reigns of the Denver functions. Please continue to mail your letters, membership dues, and other organizational matters to the Denver O. O. Box.

Newsletter submissions should now be sent to Bob Spade at 2 Alcalde Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Thanks to those who have sent items in the past. Look for the next newsletter in July.
Eighth Annual Conference - Mining History Association  
June 5-8, 1997  
Houghton, Michigan

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Please enclose check payable to the Mining History Association, and mail to MHA Houghton '97, P.O. Box 552, Houghton, MI 49931