# Mining History News

December 2007

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association


## My great-grandfather's axe, a Japanese temple, and a historic mine reinvented

You've probably heard the story about my great-grandfather's axe: I inherited it from my father, who inherited it from his father. My grandfather replaced the handle, and my father replaced the head, and now I still have my great-grandfather's axe. I once visited an ancient temple in Japan. It was over a thousand years old and built of wood. Of course, from time to time, as pieces rotted, they had been replaced, but the temple, I was assured, was well over a thousand years old.

I thought of my grandfather's axe and the Japanese temple when I saw this headline recently in the San Jose, California, *Mercury News*. "Antiquated mining rights law a threat to treasured landscapes." The article rails against the law, "signed by Ulysses S. Grant …on the books since before the light bulb." The General Mining Act codified in 1872 what was accepted English practice – that a mineral belonged to the discoverer. This was a radical notion; since before the time of Solomon, in the rest of the world, minerals belonged to the sovereign. North American law still embodies the original concept of ownership [grandfather's axe], but conditions have changed. As a result of more than a century of regulation, the discoverer now waits for years, obtaining hundreds of permits and investing thousands of dollars, to produce and profit from a mineral. The head and the handle have been replaced.

The historic Homestake Mine, in Lead, South Dakota, is being reconstituted, after 125 years in production, as DUSEL, the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. When mining operations ceased in 2002, the ore body had been followed 8,000 feet below the surface. Even while it was producing gold, the mine housed a neutrino experiment that led to the Nobel prize in physics for Dr. Ray Davis in 2002. Now the former shops at the 4850 level, well shielded from cosmic rays, will be used for research projects that will have far-reaching effects in the scientific and academic world and also in the economy of the surrounding region. The Homestake Mine, famous for its many years of gold production, may become even more significant as a research site. And, if any of you doubt that the world is now indeed flat, as a current best-selling book claims, let me note this: I recently visited Lead, and had a fine meal at the local restaurant, The Stamp Mill. The first item on the menu was a Thai chicken wrap! Even though I was hungry for a good Cornish pasty, I welcomed this evidence of international awareness.

--Deep enough.

Lee Swent
MHA President
Palo Alto, California

# Homestake Archives Finds New Home

The Adams Museum & House (AM&H) has the opportunity to protect and make accessible for the first time ever the history of the Homestake Mining Company, thanks to Barrick Gold Corporation's generous donation of the archival materials. The AM&H's 10,000 cubic foot Homestake Mining Company archival collection is of national significance. While there are many aspects that make the Homestake Mining Company unique, it is also representative of an industry of iconic proportions that dominated and helped settle much of Western America. Mining deeds, land claims, mineral surveys, annual reports, exploration and production records, photographs, assay ledgers, timber contracts and a plethora of other mining-related documents, dating from 1876 to 2002, detail the company's 126-year history in Lead, South Dakota, and far beyond.

The Homestake Mining Company revolutionized gold mining industry practices and procedures that were adopted and put into use at mines located across the country and around the world; it supported several communities in the Black Hills area and beyond; and it forever changed the cultural and environmental landscape of the region. In addition, the mine was the site of the Nobel Prize-winning Davis Experiment, the first experiment to observe solar neutrinos.

The contents of the collection are rich and wide-ranging in scope. Over 25,000 historic photographs, slides, videotapes, film and glass plate negatives provide visual documentation of the mine's business activities. Architectural drawings and plans reveal the design, style and planning that went into the structures at the mine and homes and buildings in the city of Lead as well as in surrounding towns. The geologic specimen collection of James A. Noble, chief geologist at the mine from 1931-1947, explicitly details the unique and varied mineralogy of the region. While the mine was physically located in Lead, South Dakota, the company's headquarters were in San Francisco, California. Due to the 1906 earthquake and subsequent fire that destroyed much of San Francisco, any pre-1906 company records will be found only in this collection.

The Homestake collection will be the core component of the Black Hills Natural History and Culture Center, located in Deadwood, South Dakota. In addition to functioning as an archive repository, the Center will be a sight for hosting scientific and historical lectures, classes and seminars. Relying heavily on materials from the Homestake collection, the Center will also feature exhibits that explain and demonstrate the cultural, environmental, commercial, scientific and technical characteristics of the business of mining. The AM&H is committed to universal access and interpretation of the Homestake collection through digitization with images available on the AM&H's Internet website and open on-site visitation to the Center.

The City of Deadwood has committed over $1.5 million to purchase and retrofit a building to serve as a climate-controlled and secure research center that will be operated by the non-profit AM&H and open to the general public. However, Deadwood's generous contribution does not cover all of the costs associated with preserving the collection. Please contact Gail Prostrollo, project director, 605-578-1928, for ideas of other possible revenue streams to preserve and make public these incredible records.

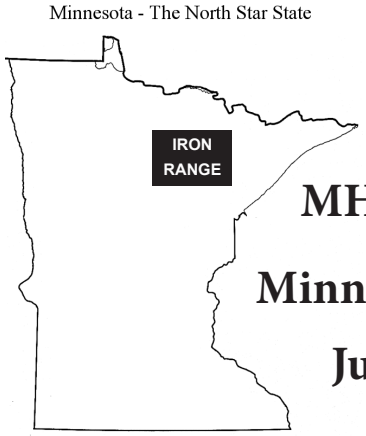
## MHA in 2010, 2011, and Beyond

Where would you like to go for future MHA conferences, in 2010 and beyond? Please send proposals, with information about facilities available, for the council to consider at its meeting next June.

Contact Ed Hunter:
stoperat@ccvnet.net

## Don't forget to join the MHA online!

Our group address is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MiningHistoryAssociation/ or send a blank email to MiningHistoryAssociation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and you will get a reply back telling you how to join. Once you are signed up, an email sent to MiningHistoryAssociation@yahoogroups.com goes to everyone on the list.




***See you in June!***

# MHA 2008

# Minnesota Iron Range

# June 12-15, 2008

Join the Local Arrangements team for a tour of Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range, the birthplace of open pit mining and Longyear's first test of his famous diamond drill. The conference will be anchored at the Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm, with hotel accommodations in both Chisholm and Hibbing.

**Features for Mining Die-Hards:**

The Ironwood Discovery Center is both a heritage site and interpretive complex, located alongside the Glen-Godfrey mine pit (a restored electric trolley provides excursions to the remains of the Glen townsite, partially lost to the encroaching mine pit).

Local tours are likely to include the state-owned Hill Annex open pit mine, the Hull Rust Mahoning overlook and the Minnesota Museum of Mining. Optional tours will include a corporate mine tour and the opportunity to tour the state-owned Soudan Underground Mine in the nearby Vermillion Iron Range.

Lauded as the best public underground mine tour in North America, the Soudan mine includes extensive surface operations including a rock crusher and operating hoist, a 2,700-foot descent in a two-level man cage (dubbed the "death car" by Jane Nordberg), and an underground train ride into the mine's historic workings. Conference planners are also investigating the possibility of visiting the University of Minnesota's underground neutrino laboratory on the mine's 27th level.

**Heritage Tourism Sites:**

Other heritage tourism sites in conjunction with the conference might include Minnesota's third iron-mining district, the Cuyuna Range to the south of Chisholm-Hibbing, or perhaps a few days in the beautiful lakeside city of Duluth with its operating pocket ore docks (best viewed from a tour boat along Duluth's inner harbor).

The tired of mining (never!) can tour the Greyhound Bus Museum or visit Bob Dylan's boyhood home, both in Hibbing. Let's not forget hockey -- the world's largest hockey stick is photograph-worthy, just outside the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in Virginia, Minnesota. The Chisholm-Hibbing area is temperate. Expect June temperatures in the low 70s with nighttime temps in the lower 50s. Bring an umbrella or a raincoat, and a little bug spray.

Need more information? Contact conference hosts Erik & Jane Nordberg at enordber@mtu.edu or Mark Langenfeld at mlangen@execpc.com. More tourism information can be found from the Iron Trail Convention and Tourism Bureau at www.irontrail.org. See you in June in the Land of 10,000 Lakes (and quite a few iron mines!)

# 2008 Mining History Association Ballot

Vice President/President Elect (one year term beginning June 2008)

Vote for one:

☐ **Karen Vendl**

☐ _____ **(write in)**

Council (two positions, 3 year term beginning June 2008)

Vote for two:

☐ **Bill Culver**

☐ **Peter Maciulaitis**

☐ **Andrew Morris**

☐ _____**(write in)**

Nominating Committee (one position, 3 year term beginning June 2008)

Vote for one:

☐ **Noel Kirshenbaum**

☐ **Lynn Langenfeld**

☐ _____**(write in)**

**Biographies are on the next page.**
**Mail ballot by January 30, 2008 to:**
**Mining History Association**
P.O. Box 552
Sedalia, CO 80135

# Candidate Biographies

**Karen Vendl**, La Grange Park, Illinois - Karen is a geologist who has done post-graduate work in economic geology. She is interested in Colorado mining history and mineralogy, and has authored or co-authored several articles and book reviews in the Mining History Journal, the latest of which was an article about Ben Revett's Breckenridge gold dredges. Along with her husband, Mark, Karen organized the 1999 MHA conference in Ouray, Colorado. Karen has served on the MHA Council (1995-1997), was newsletter co-editor (2001-2007), and was on the program committee for the 2007 meeting in Leadville. In 2006, Karen received the MHA Special Service Award.

**William Culver**, Mooers Forks (located in the northern Adirondacks on the Canadian border), New York – A San Diego native, Bill retired in 2007 after teaching courses in political science and Latin American Studies at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh since 1971. In 1989 he and Carmen Culver started the SUNY study abroad programs in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay, and these programs became his professional focus until retirement. His mining history research has concentrated on 19th Century copper politics, mostly in Chile. His most recent work looks at James Douglas and the nature of Douglas' metallurgical innovations. He has one edited book *Miners and Mining in the Americas* (1986), and many articles on the history of Chilean copper mining in both Spanish and English. His article "Capitalist Dreams: Chile's Response to Nineteenth Century Copper Competition." won the 1990 Conference Prize (American Historical Association, Conference on Latin American History, for the "Best Article on Latin American History" in the previous year.) He is active in the International Mine History meetings as well as the Historians of Latin American Mining. In other interests, Bill writes on national legislatures in Chile, Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia, where he sometimes offers seminars for staff and the elected representatives.

**Peter Maciulaitis**, a professional geologist, earned a Professional degree in geological engineering at the Colorado School of Mines in 1967. Between 1968 and 1988, while engaged in mineral exploration, he studied art at the University of Colorado and University of Montana, business at University of Colorado-Denver, and mineral economics at the Colorado School of Mines, In four decades as a geologist, he has searched for silver, uranium, molybdenum, antimony, barite, and gold in Mexico, Colombia, France, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and the USA. More than half of his career has involved generative work in gold exploration in the Great Basin, particularly in Nevada. He has served as a consultant for and employee of two junior companies (Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation and Euro-Nevada Mining Corporation) that went from start-up ventures to major gold-mining concerns. He had been involved in two major mineral discoveries, the Sprute vein, Coeur d'Alene mining district, Idaho and the Ken Snyder Mine, Gold Circle mining district, Nevada. One of his other interests is mining history. He has been an active member of the Mining History Association for many years and is a US representative to the International Mining History Congress.

**Andrew Morris** - I was born in Kentucky in 1980, and as the child of military parents spent a lot of time on the move. My interest was first drawn to mining history when I permanently changed residence to Colorado at the age of 16, but remained only an amateur pursuit for a couple of years thereafter. It was interesting enough to me that I elected to stay in the state in 1998, and study history at the University of Colorado. It was there that I met Dr. Jay Fell, and took a course on the U.S. Mining West that has shaped my historical pursuits ever since. Upon graduation in 2002, I began looking for a masters/doctoral supervisor who would be able to help me advance this interest that I had been cultivating in mining and industrial history. The search led to the University of Exeter in England, where I had the pleasure of Prof. Roger Burt's supervision on my doctoral thesis that investigated the mining and engineering impacts of the introduction of commercial alloy steels prior to World War One. The thesis was successfully defended this past summer, and I am currently employed by the Coiltech division of BJ Services Company.

*(Biographies continued on page 7)*

# The

# Clark C. Spence Award

# Committee of the

# Mining History Association

is now accepting nominations for the best book published on Mining History during 2007-2008. The committee considers books that meet the documentation and narrative standards set by the works of Clark Christian Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

To be considered, the book must focus on the history of a specific mining region, or a mining-related theme or topic, especially within the American West, or an individual or individuals prominent in the history of American mining. There are no temporal limits on subjects. The book must be published either in the year 2007 or 2008.

Authors or publishers should send three copies of the nominated work to the Mining History Association office:

David Wolff
Attn: MHA Spence Award
Black Hills State University
1200 University St, Unit 9059
Spearfish, SD 57799

Congratulations to Liston Leyendecker, Christine Bradley, and Duane Smith for their *The Rise of the Silver Queen: Georgetown, Colorado, 1859-1896* published by University Press of Colorado, winner of the Clark C. Spence Award for best book in mining history published during 2005-2006.

*Biographies continued from page 5*

**Noel Kirshenbaum's** career has centered in the mining, minerals, metals, and energy industries, working with ferrous, non-ferrous, precious metals, and fuel minerals. He has taught, had positions with several major mining firms in extractive metallurgy research and process development, and investigated markets for new mineral and metal products. Research included work on environmentally-benign methods of metals extraction. Consulting clients included mineral and shipping companies, domestic and foreign. He has written and presented many papers on minerals processing and metallurgy, minerals transport, and fuels utilization; his publications cover the history as well as the technology of the subjects. He is proficient in Spanish and reads French.

Born San Francisco, California
Stanford University, B.S. Metallurgical Engineering
M.S. Metallurgy
Engineer of Mines, Mineral Economics
Professional Experience: American Smelting & Refining Co., Alloyd Corp., General Electric Co., Copper Range Co., Marcona Corp., Placer Dome Inc.
Professor of Metallurgy at Universidad Catolica de Cordoba (Argentina)
Member: AIME (SME), CIM, IMM, Mining & Metallurgical Society, Sigma Xi.
Several patents (Canadian and U.S.) on metallurgy and exploration
Numerous published articles on metallurgy, minerals transportation, mining history.
Past President Mining History Association.

**Lynn E. Langenfeld** along with her husband, Mark, has been researching the history of the Upper Mississippi lead/zinc district. When she isn't doing research or off on a fly fishing adventure, Lynn is a Vice President responsible for the administration of personal trust and individual retirement accounts for US Bank, Madison, WI. Lynn has served on numerous community and not-for-profit boards of directors. She has also been a past MHA council member (1995-1997) and has previously served on the MHA program and nominating committees.

# It's not too late to submit your MHA Grant Proposal

The Research Grant Program is open to all who are currently engaged in or who plan to conduct mining history research, or who have completed a relevant project and need funding to attend a Mining History Annual meeting in order to make a presentation on the subject of their research. Eligible persons include academic scholars, public sector professionals in history-related disciplines, independent scholars, graduate students, writers, and educators. MHA does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, age, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis. The Grant Committee, at its discretion, may make up to three grants per year. Funding may vary, up to a maximum of $750 per grant. The amount of each award will be determined by the Grant Committee on the basis of available funding, the grant criteria as indicated below, and on individual budget priorities.

Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2008 so there still time to submit your proposal to the committee. For application details, see the September 2007 MHA Newsletter available online at: http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/sept2007MHANewsletter.pdf

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

**First Class Mail**

## Upcoming Events

**19th Annual MHA Conference**
June 12-15, 2008
Chisholm, Minnesota
www.mininghistoryassociation.org

**48th Annual Western History Association Conference**
October 22-25, 2008
Salt Lake City, Utah
http://www.umsl.edu/~wha/

**20th Annual MHA Conference**
June, 2009
Creede, Colorado
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 and Rachel 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 changes to your address to Diane Dudley, membership chair, at:

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