

Western Museum of Mining and Industry

by Jim VanFleet

Here's the museum for the enthusiast of hard rock mining. They have gone beyond the standard exhibits of miner's lunch buckets and lamps in display cases (although they have these too, and occasional special exhibits prepared with the assistance of collectors). The Western Museum of Mining and Industry is downright industrious. They have a guided tour in a full scale simulated mine, with tour guides using carbide lamps, and demonstrating drilling and blasting techniques using restored machinery. There is a working blacksmith shop, assay office, and ore processing mill. The working machinery includes a Corliss steam engine with a 17 ton flywheel, and a Fraser-Chalmers 10 stamp mill, circa 1890. Ear plugs are distributed on "Stamp Mill Day," and the 800 pound stamps are set to crushing ore.

The museum offers hands-on classes in blacksmithing, and gold prospecting and panning. They sponsor many mining related movie showings, and social and cultural events like the Pike's Peak Engine and Tractor Gas-up (as in "gas it up and go"). There is an often overlooked emphasis in the Western Museum on the miner's social life and background. The exhibits include a restored mining camp bar, and a slide show presentation on the social history of western mining.

Finally, there is a place here for researchers and historians, with a 2,000 artifact "study collection," and a library with over 8,000 volumes. The museum is located on 27 acres of land, in four large buildings, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, off I-25, just outside the gates to the Air Force Academy. The Western Museum is open daily, except major holidays, and charges a very reasonable entry fee. Membership has enough privileges to make it worth while for any visiting collector.



Mining History Association

by Len Gaska

The Mining History Association is a new organization devoted to the researching and preservation of this important facet of our heritage. The dues are \$10 per year which go towards the publication of a newsletter and defraying the cost of meetings. The first annual meeting is scheduled for October 17-21 in Reno, Nevada.

To join, send your \$10 to:

Mining History Association
PO Box 150300
Denver, CO 80215

And from their first newsletter, for the mining artifact collector that has everything, the mining ghost town of Shiny Rock, Oregon is for sale! Contact Todd Fiebig at (206) 623-2935