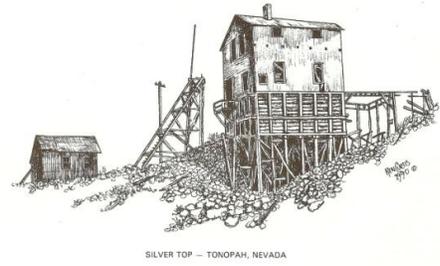


Tonopah Historic
Mining Park
Presents

Tailings



SILVER TOP - TONOPAH, NEVADA

Volume 10-2

Fall 2012

Master of Ceremony, Mark Hall- Patton
at our Gate Dedication Ceremony.



L-R: Tinker Evans of Kinross Gold, Stretch Baker and Bob Perchetti accepting a certificate for his son, Bryan who helped design and manufacture our new THMP Gate Sign. Not Shown Harris Fencing.

Gate Dedication Ceremony

On June 23rd at high noon the park held a Gate Dedication Ceremony and Celebration to show the many improvements at the park. In conjunction with this event, blacksmithing classes were held with a gallery displaying the smiths' metal art work. Mark Hall-Patton, Director of the Clark County Museum, McCarran Aviation Museum, Searchlight Museum and also known as an historic expert on the T.V. show, Pawn Stars, was our Master of Ceremonies. Bill Durbin, Chief, Southern Nevada Operations, Abandoned Mine Lands/Mineral Education Programs exhibited Stay Out and Stay Alive materials as well as educational packets. Tonopah Town Manager, James Eason with assistance from our Foundation Chairman, Mimi Rodden, christened our new entryway sign while Foundation members, VIP's and locals observed.



Tonopah Town Manager, James Eason awards a certificate of thanks to Bill Durbin, Chief of Southern Nevada Division of Minerals.



THMP Blacksmiths enjoyed a great weekend of blacksmithing at the park.



James Eason thanks Nancy Stehle for her donation of three silver bars in memory of her husband, Carl Stehle, a geologist. Her generous donation will become the foundation of our Endowment Fund.

THMP's Weekend Celebration



John Livermore accepts a certificate of appreciation from James Eason as THMP Foundation member, Don Southwick looks on. Mr. Livermore's Public Resources Foundation underwrote the salary of a Park Curator for three years. John also donated his fantastic mineral exhibit, a collection of the late John Heizer's as well as his own collected minerals and artifacts.



Instructor, Michael Barth and Chris Stanton with the park's new anvil.



Town Manager, James Eason christens our new gate.



Blacksmiths Mike Nichlos and Instructor, Mike Stanton working with one of the forges donated by Tonopah local, John Campbell.

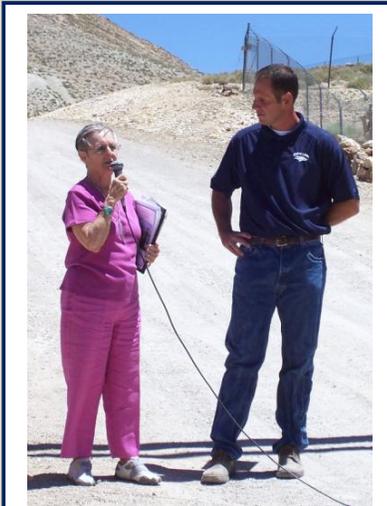


Eden & Dave Sanders

In loving memory of the woman who helped start the blacksmithing program at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park. Eden, along with her husband, Dave donated our first forge as well as tools. As an enthusiastic ambassador of artistic metal work, she was pleased when Nevada Humanities recognized smithing as an historic art form. Eden, a well-known certified blacksmith instructor, taught Nevada's first certified instructors, thereby encouraging the Park to continue classes at the highest level.

We have lost a generous, talented, caring friend. Any memorials to one of "the joys of her life" may be made in her name to the Tonopah Historic Mining Park. All funds or equipment donated will go towards expanding the Park's blacksmithing future thereby keeping Eden's dream alive. Thank you, Eden. We will always appreciate your support.

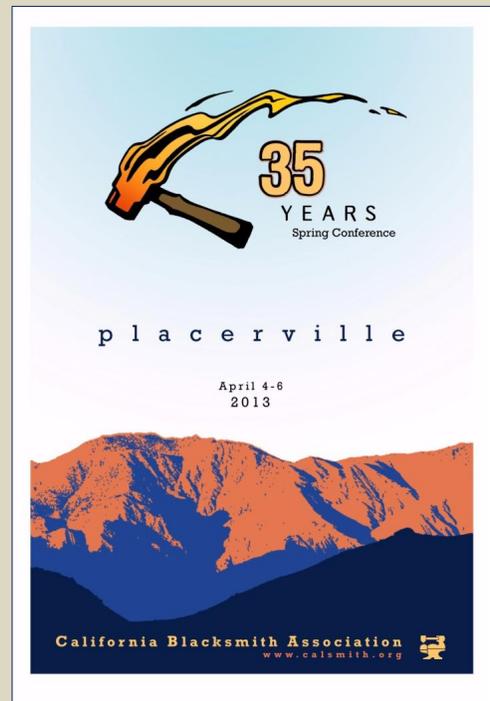
Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation



Foundation Chairman, Mimi Rodden thanking James Eason and the Jim Butler Inn & Suites for their many donations to the park.

Photos courtesy of Marti Barth and Corrina Williams

Matt Downs uses the park's new anvil and forge. Thanks Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation Members.



THMP Receives Grants

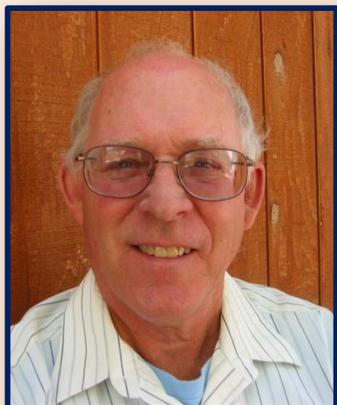


The park has received a \$1,000.00 Nevada Humanities grant to begin the process of producing a guide to our collections. The Foundation has contracted with Mary Ringhoff, Architectural Historian and Archaeologist to develop this guide. Mary holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Stanford University, an M.A. in Anthropology from the

University of Nevada, Reno, and an M.H.P. in Historic Preservation from the University of Southern California. She has worked extensively in Nye County and is extremely well qualified to assist THMP in this and future grant programs, such as our planned development of a preservation plan. Project manager and Foundation member, Joan Tinker will work with Mary to identify and describe the collections, as will Town of Tonopah employee, Mariah Rivero. Ms. Rivero holds a B.A., University of Nevada Las Vegas with dual degrees in History and Anthropology. Mariah has previously inventoried collections at the park. Joan Tinker, M.L.S. Indiana University, is a trained research librarian now retired from her 32 year career as State Librarian, Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and Director of Henderson Public Libraries.



The Daughters of the American Revolution's (DAR) former Nevada State Regent, Karen Lampus has designated the mining park as the recipient of her special project fund. The Nevada State *DAR* has raised over three thousand dollars to match a three thousand dollar National DAR Historic Preservation Grant thereby benefitting the park with just over six thousand dollars to identify and label exhibits and equipment displayed on site.



**Meet Don Southwick,
our newest
Tonopah Historic Mining
Park Foundation Member**

A retired Bently Nevada Electrical Engineer, Don comes to us with a wealth of volunteer experience. Mr. Southwick served two four year terms on the Douglas County Library Board. He also served on the Volunteer Fire Chief's Advisory Board for the East Fork Fire and Paramedic Districts. He was elected Chief of the Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Department from the late 1980's through 1990's, Don also served three two year terms on the Family Support Council of Douglas County. Since retiring, he and his wife, Susan split their time between their home in Jacks Valley and their ranch in Nye County. Per Don, "Susan and I feel very much like we have two home towns, Carson City and Tonopah, and we want to do what we can to make both better places to live and visit."

**Gold Panning
Volunteers
Needed**

The park is seeking volunteers to help with gold panning during special events. If you are interested in helping please call the girls in the office at 775-482-9274.



**Look who benefits
from mining.**

Nevada mining creates opportunities. Since 1860 mining has evolved into a cleaner, safer industry. Mining is millions of dollars in environmental protection and wild life conservation, reclaiming the land for recreation, like fishing, camping and hiking. Mining is research and education.

**The Nevada Division of
Minerals - celebrating one
hundred years of mining
in Nevada.**

**THMP Foundation
Members:**

Chairman – Mimi Rodden

Vice Chairman – Stretch Baker

Treasurer – Bob Beers

Secretary – Tinker Evans

Members at large:

Joni Eastley

Stanley Paher

Don Southwick

Joan Tinker

Corolynn Heizer Vogt

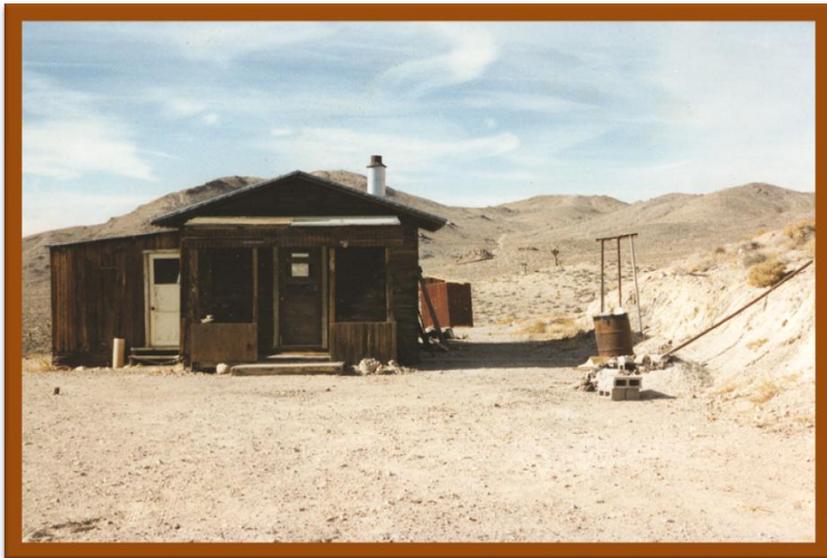
Bill Wahl

Special thanks to Stretch Baker for serving as our former Chairman and to Joni Eastley who served as our secretary.



**Congratulations to
Bob Beers on your
election to the
Las Vegas City Council**

**and to Stanley Paher
for your Distinguished
Nevadan Award and
recent marriage.**



The lost mines of Death Valley and vicinity fall into two classifications: the Breyfogle and all the others. In 1863 Charles Breyfogle had a hotel in a small mining camp near Austin in central Nevada, but soon tired of renting rooms and headed southward through the Big Smoky Valley toward the undeveloped wilds of Death Valley. On this journey which ended just north or east of Death Valley, the

Gold Mountain Cabin

By Stanley Paher

Near the edge of Oriental Wash, a large 15 mile-long defile which empties into the north end of Death Valley, is the mining camp of Gold Mountain. Now a ghost town, Gold Mountain consists of about 24 stone ruins, the remnants of a gold mill, and a wooden cabin which is maintained and can offer shelter for visitors. It is generally known as the Gold Mountain cabin, and is similar in size and purpose as many other Death Valley area cabins.

Some mining in the modern Death Valley National Park area started at Salt Springs in 1851, and serious development took place on the west flank of the Panamint Range after 1860 at the Inyo Mines. Thereafter, prospecting in the Death Valley area increased, in part because of stories of lost mines. To the north there was the Lost Cement Mine and to the west the Lost Gunsight and the Lost Bluebucket. To the south was the Lost Pegleg. But the lost treasure story that really brought attention to prospecting in the area was the tale of the Lost Breyfogle Mine.



uncovered rich gold float on a reddish mountain slope. It ultimately became known as the “Lost Breyfogle,” and the story of the fabulous discovery circulated swiftly and widely. Since the discoverer could not retrace his steps to the phantom ledge, others from northern Nevada soon visited the Death Valley area to search for it. Death Valley was the most desolate and deadly wasteland in the entire West.

Though no party of prospectors found Breyfogle’s lost mine, which allegedly “was rich enough to pay the national debt,” various individuals discovered gold and silver ledges in the Panamint Range and in the Black and Funeral Mountains. Accounts of these

gold searchers and what they found regularly appeared in the Austin's *Reese River Reveille* in the years 1863-1865. Its editor wrote confidently of rich finds, but expectations were not fulfilled.

Still, the lost mines stories drew attention to the area of southern Nevada and Death Valley. New settlements sprang up and population increased, so much so that Nevada's Governor Blasdel and the state Mineralogist headed toward southeastern Nevada the area in the spring of 1866 to organize the new county of Lincoln. To get there from Carson City, the six-foot-five-inch governor and his party journeyed by way of Death Valley, finally reaching Ash Meadows. There, the party found themselves running short of supplies, but fortunately Charles Breyfogle's prospecting party, still in search of the elusive gold find, was able to provide water and a wagon.



All of this attention toward overlooked mineralization in the Death Valley area led many others to strike out from western and central Nevada to prospect the area. The first discoveries at Slate Ridge, where the camp of Gold Mountain would later

emerge, took place in the fall of 1865 when three men from Austin found gold. These "Breyfoglers" were looking for the lost float gold which Charles Breyfogle had chanced upon less than two years previous. Though a mining district was organized, ore samples assayed upon their return to Austin found values unworkable –just \$50 a ton. Other prospectors ventured to the area, staked claims, but soon left.

Thomas Shaw came in 1868 (though a contemporary newspaper editor said 1864) and staked claims which became the Stateline mine, recovering gold at a mule- or horse-powered Mexican arrastre six feet in diameter, at a spring six miles south, across Oriental Wash. Little values were recovered. Others drifted in as values improved, and by 1873 the camp could boast of a saloon, a restaurant and a butcher shop. Still, Gold Mountain's remoteness, inadequate milling facilities and lack of water did not invite additional capital to develop the mines.

Late in 1880 the camp of Gold Mountain revived and the Stateline mine was regarded as one of Nevada's best. By the summer of the next year the camp had two stores, five saloons, a boarding house, stable and regular mail serviced by stage. One saloon boasted of a "first class billiard table," while another had a "handsome club room," according to newspaper advertisements. A post office opened in February 1881, with mail brought in from towns to the north twice weekly.

Even at this remote district, water was \$3.50 a barrel delivered but only a dollar if picked up at the spring. At one store locals could purchase the usual groceries and tools, and also paint, wall paper, bedding, caps and fuse and other mining supplies. Meals at the chop

Membership Benefits

Mining park members receive free entrance to the park, a ten percent discount on all purchases in our gift shop, blacksmithing classes, coal and a subscription to our bi-annual *Tailings* Newsletter.

With the holidays fast approaching, check out our gift shop for the best supply of Nevada mining and recreational books, t-shirts, candy and minerals. There's something for everyone.



Photo courtesy of Mariah Rivero

Mining Park Memberships

Individual - \$25.00

Family - \$35.00

Business - \$75.00

Individual Life - \$250.00

Family/Business Life -
\$350.00

Benefactor

Individual/Family Life -
\$1,000.00

Benefactor Business Life -
\$1,500.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, _____

State ____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Clip this form and mail to:

Tonopah Historic Mining Park,
PO Box 965
Tonopah, NV 89049

Or call 775-482-9274 to
charge to a credit card

Gold Mountain Cabin cont'd from page 7

house were available 24 hours. Sprinkled throughout the camp were many wooden, stone, canvas and dugout dwellings.

The Stateline Mining Co. erected a \$40,000 mill with 10 stamps, and a 12-mile long pipe line six inches in diameter was contemplated building from Tule Canyon. The pipe had been shipped in from Austin, where it was loaded onto wagons and hauled by big freight teams over 125 miles of ungraded roads and desert. Delivery took 16 days, plus two days to load all of the pipe which likely had been fabricated at a foundry in northern California. But the pipe proved to be defective, delaying the supply of water to the mill. Author-researcher Alan Patera found evidence that behind the Stateline operation was a cleverly worked out scam involving stock manipulation and the disguising of true ore values. Debts began to accrue, and finally in 1882 the Stateline Company was successfully sued in district court for nearly \$20,000. The mines were reorganized, and the camp more or less stabilized for the rest of the decade. However, by 1891 the post office closed after a decline in mining.

Beginning in 1905 Gold Mountain revived, as did most of the southern Nevada – Death Valley region. Nearby mining camps sprang up, such as Palmetto, Lida, Tokop, and the Rattlesnake mine flourished to the east. Sylvania, an old 19th century camp saw its silver mines reopen. Ultimately the Stateline mine built a new mill, machine shop and bunkhouse. It was during this revival that the Gold Mountain cabin was built, together with other wooden cabins.

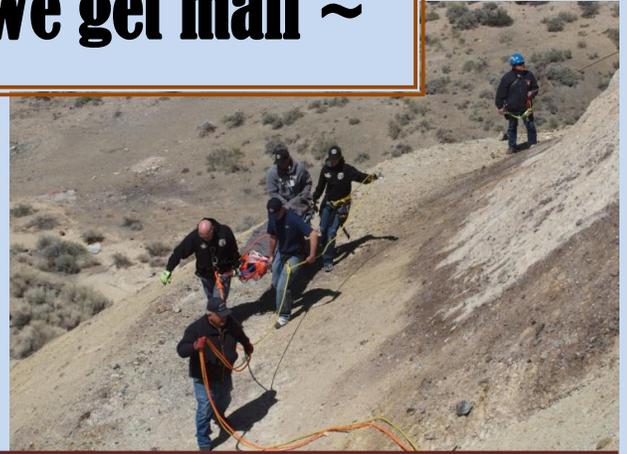
Almost all mining ceased by the time of World War I, and only small operators have recovered small values. The cabin at Gold Mountain is easily reached by traveling six miles southwest from the nearby community of Gold Point into Oriental Wash, then turning right for two miles. Or travel 40 miles north from the Ubehebe Crater road in northern Death Valley National Park, thence eastward and upward 10 miles into Oriental Wash, then two miles north.

Either way into Gold Mountain you enter Main Street in the old camp and you are amid about two dozen rock structures, mostly formerly businesses. Another side road takes you to the foundations of the Stateline mill. The Gold mountain cabin is just two hundred miles to the west, and is available for use anytime. It is stocked with fire wood, canisters of propane, canned goods, magazines, a log book for visitors to sign, and ample furniture including a couch and a table. However, evidence of mice occupying it exists, so it is best to camp outside of the cabin. But with its tables, chairs and a sofa, the cabin is good for day use.

About a half mile further west is a knoll with a rock wall surrounding it. It is six feet high in places, with a broad base, and about 120 feet long. Its purpose is a mystery, and precisely what year it was built is unknown, though evidently much time and effort was taken by some parties, at some time, for about 40 or 50 of the boulders which make up the base of the wall are up to 800 pounds to a half ton in size. The wall has been thought to be part of a fortress, but the location, a half mile from the Gold Mountain cabin, would have been impractical for military use. Enjoy your visit to the Gold Mountain cabin.

Photos courtesy of Rick Kasky & Danny R. Thomas

~ We get mail ~



Photos courtesy of Patty Winters



From: Patricia Winters
Sent: May 17, 2012
To: Joni Eastley, THMP
Foundation Member

Subject: RE: LAST Training (Locate, Assess, Stabilize and Transport)

....The mining park provides such a diverse selection of training opportunities and our participants who come in from out of town are amazed at the history that is contained within the area. It really is such a gem and we are so fortunate to be able to utilize the park for training! Just incredible!

Having said that Joni, I also want to say thanks to you, I know that you have put in many hours and worked hard to see the park come to fruition. You and those who have worked to make the park what it is deserve a huge thank you!

So,
Thank YOU!

Patty Winters, EMS Coordinator/Trainer
Nye County Emergency Services



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA

May 16, 2012

Dear Heather and Fred,

On behalf of the Geological Society of Nevada and the field trip participants I wish to thank you for hosting us for a tour of the great mining park in Tonopah.

Heather, we thank you for the visit to the park and for allowing the use of the auditorium for the geology presentation. I had several comments from the field trip participants complimenting the quality of the park and the excellent displays of historic items from the Tonopah District. Some of them mentioned that they plan to visit the park again with their families.

Fred, we thank you for the excellent presentation on the geology of the Tonopah District. And, for bringing some rock samples of the high-grade silver veins from Tonopah.

Best wishes for continued success with the Tonopah Historic Mining Park and a busy summer with visitors.

Sincerely,

David L. Emmons

David L. Emmons

GSN Vice President



Introducing

Our New

THMP Lifetime Members

Wade Barton

The Bob Beers Family

The Cox Family, Carol, Neil & Christine

Linda Grant

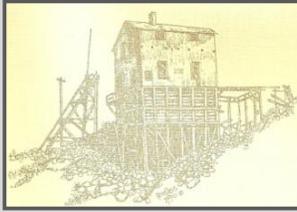
Don & Susan Southwick

Daniel W. Varnum

THMP Lifetime Benefactors

Dan Kappes

John Livermore



TONOPAH HISTORIC MINING PARK

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TONOPAH, NV 89049

MAILING ADDRESS - PO BOX 965, TONOPAH, NV

775-482-9274



This new plaque hangs in our Gift Shop and recognizes our Major Donors and Lifetime Members.