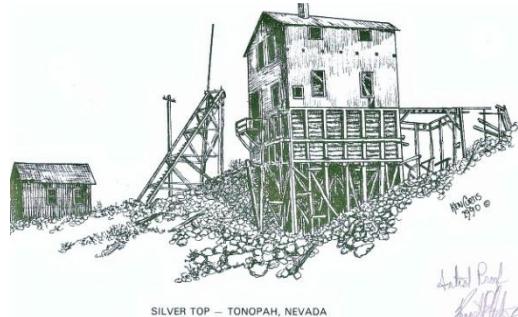


Tonopah Historic
Mining Park
Presents

Tailings



SILVER TOP – TONOPAH, NEVADA

Volume 9-1

Spring 2011

Official Site of the Nevada State Mining Championships - Memorial Day Weekend – May 28th & 29th

Every year, over Memorial Day weekend as part of Jim Butler Days, the Tonopah Historic Mining Park hosts the Nevada State Mining Championships. This two day event features both professional and amateur competitions. This event has been held for more than 30 years and involves the many skills that miners needed to make a living at their profession. Event contests include double and single jack drilling, individual and team mucking, spike driving, timber toss, timber sawing and the newest event, blindfolded wheelbarrow obstacle course.



At left: Brock Boscovich competing in the single jack drilling competition. Brock is the reigning single jack and individual mucking champion. At Right: Heidi Bertolino puts her back into the Women's Mucking Event.



On Saturday the professional mining events start immediately after the Jim Butler parade, normally around high noon. Both women and men are invited to participate in a wide variety of events. Large cash prizes are the incentive and the reward is being able to brag that you are the Nevada State Champion! The actual prize money is all donated by supportive companies and individuals. The more money donated, the bigger the purse. Also, all entry fees are added in and used to boost the final take even more. All comers are invited to participate. However, if you enter the professional events, you aren't eligible to compete in the amateur events on Sunday. A minimum of three participants must be entered for an event to be held. Check out our website - www.tonopahhistoricminingpark.com.

Continued on page 12



Restoration of a Landmark in Tonopah

The Mizpah Hotel, located on Main Street in front of the mining park was completed in 1908 and opened with great ceremony. Over \$200,000 was spent on the hotel, which boasted

baths, steam heat and elevators. The historic Mizpah Hotel has been purchased by Combination Seven, LLC, with restoration underway at this time. The buyers are a family group, headed by Fred and Nancy Cline of Sonoma, California with roots in Tonopah and Goldfield going back to 1900.

Harry Ramsey, Nancy's great uncle, arrived in the boomtown of Tonopah and set up Ramsey's Saloon on Main Street. In a very short time he became active in the mining business; grub staking local mines such as the Mizpah, Combination and North Star and then providing the start up funds for a new mining camp known as "grandpa," which later became Goldfield.



In 1904, Ramsey had interests in mines from Reno to Beatty, he then moved his family to California, yet returning for regular visits until his death in 1915. Harry Ramsey's sister, Emma, who was Nancy Cline's grandmother, was postmistress of Goldfield until the family moved to California.

The Mizpah has been closed since 2001. Previous to that it was the center of political power for the entire state of Nevada and until its closing was a major anchor for tourism in central Nevada.



"It is our intent to honor the hardworking men and women of Nevada's past, as well as those who have stayed on as guardians of an incredible history, which is deeply integrated into Nevada's future and California's past... We are very appreciative of this opportunity to restore the Mizpah and understand the importance of this project to the community. We consider it a sacred trust," said Fred Cline when handed the keys to the property.

The Clines own the Cline Cellars Winery and Jacuzzi Family Vineyards and Winery located in Sonoma,

~ Mizpah Hotel – Continued on page 4 ~

Belmont Mine Fire

On February 28, 1911, a mysterious fire broke out at the bottom of the twelve hundred foot shaft of the Belmont mine early in the morning. Men had already gone below before the seriousness of the fire was realized. Extremely toxic fumes caused calls to the hoist operator. The men were becoming frantic. Many men were brought to safety but seventeen men perished in the mine that day. All died from the fumes and not the fire. A number of the dead had actually made it to the lift but were so weak that they fell from the cage to their deaths at the bottom of the shaft. The cause of the deadly fire was a candle left on dry timber by a careless workman. This was the only mining accident in the Tonopah mines. The Belmont Mine soon was reopened and went on to produce thirty eight million in silver and gold before its closure following another fire in 1939.

One Hundred Years Later

During the 100 year Memorial of the Belmont Mine fire I was fortunate enough to get to the various events/locations with Clair Blackburn and the entire group of paranormal activity people.

Wednesday Feb. 23rd, I went to the Belmont Mine shaft location for the memorial prayer and reading of the names of the men killed in the fire.

Thursday Feb. 24th, everyone came up to the mining park, where I gave them a tour, starting with the Desert Queen mine. On that tragic day 100 years ago several men had to be rescued through the Desert Queen when the fire started. I also showed them the Mizpah mine so that they could get a better understanding of the mine shafts and how mining operations worked back then. It was rather impressive to everyone there; and they took several pictures and some video of the mining park.

Then on Saturday Feb. 26th, Clair and Teralyn Blackburn came up to the park bringing cookies and refreshments and Clair spoke of how the Desert Queen tied into the Big Bill Murphy story and the fact that Big Bill ran from the Desert Queen over the mountain to the Belmont mine to rescue his co workers when the fire started. This Memorial service was held one hundred years to the day of this horrific tragedy. I think that is wonderful how this story has finally been brought to light. Big Bill Murphy was an unsung hero and his story was one that needed telling even if it took nearly one hundred years to do so. Even though this was a very tragic event in Tonopah's history I personally feel very blessed to have been able to be involved with the memorial service.



Heather Ingalls, THMP Park Tour Guide

"Big" Bill Murphy

Statue designed and built by Adam Skiles,
Dedicated May 28th, 2005.



Makeup – A Wealth of Minerals

By Donna Boreck and Liane Kadnuck

Have you ever read the ingredients in makeup, shampoo or toothpaste? It might surprise you. Many personal-care products contain a wealth of mineral materials taken from the earth. Take for example, eye shadow. One of the first ingredients listed in eye shadow is usually talc – a magnesium silicate mineral. Its platy crystal habit is in part the reason why talc has been an important ingredient in cosmetics since 3500 B.C. The plates glide smoothly across each other, allowing makeup to be applied easily. They lie across the pores in the skin and lessen the chance of clogging pores, while providing texture to the skin. Yet they are translucent enough not to be seen. Talc is resistant to acids, bases, and heat and tends to repel water. In addition to eye shadows, talc is used in loose and pressed powders, blushes, is a filler in some deodorants, and is added to lotions and creams. Talc can also be found in chewing gum and pharmaceuticals. Mica, a mineral widely used in eye shadows, powder, lipstick, and nail polish, is added to give luster or pearlescence to a product. Mica is resistant to ultraviolet light, heat, weather and chemical attack and adheres to the skin. Like talc, it has excellent slip characteristics and may be used to replace talc in a makeup. When coated with iron oxide, mica flakes sparkle with a gold tint.

Kaolin, a clay, is added to makeup to absorb moisture. It covers the skin well, will stay on the skin, and is resistant to oil. Kaolin and another clay, bentonite, are added to the earth-based face masks or packs predominately for their cleansing effects. Clays are also used as fillers in different products. Powdered calcite, a calcium carbonate, absorbs moisture. Because of this, calcite and a magnesium carbonate, processed from dolomite, are added to powders to increase the ability of the makeup to absorb moisture.

~ Mizpah Hotel - continued from page 2 ~

California. William Bunting, Nancy's brother and Harry Ramsey's grand-nephew are in charge of construction and restoration. "Uncle Harry was a pioneer in 1900, I feel like a pioneer one hundred and eleven years later and couldn't be more excited," said Bunting as he eyed his new project.

Bunting is a general contractor, licensed in both California and Nevada and is well known for building wineries and reconstructing older buildings. He continued, "First we need to get the lights on, then we will get to work!" The grand re-opening is projected for this summer.

Photo credits to Teresa Madsen and the Central Nevada Museum

Editor's Note: The mining park, as well as the greater central Nevada area is excited and pleased to welcome this grand old lady back. This will serve as a catalyst to remember Tonopah as a central meeting place in the silver state; boosting both local economics and heritage tourism.

Mining Park's Blacksmith Wish List

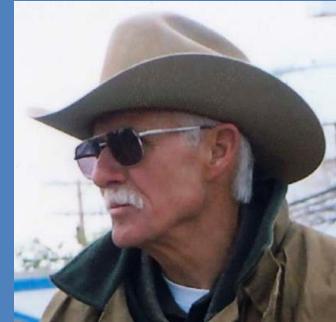


In anticipation of our upcoming Blacksmithing Classes the park would like to acquire the following equipment. The mining park is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

- 1) Hammers: cross pein, ball pein, straight pein
- 2) Anvil(s)
- 3) Forges
- 4) Blowers
- 5) Tongs: Chain makers, "Tom" tongs, Wolf Jaw tongs, pickup tongs, square/round hollow bit, close-mouth, open-mouth, bolt tongs, rivet tongs
- 6) Mild Steel: 10/20 (Hot Rolled), misc. sizes ¼, 3/8, ½, ¾ - square, round
- 7) Blacksmith Coal/Coke
- 8) Tool Steel: square, round

Blacksmithing Hammer In June 25-26

Mark your calendars for June 25th and 26th as we enjoy another weekend of blacksmithing at the park. Yes, folks, we're having another Hammer In. Let's get together and create something artistic and wonderful! Cost is \$20.00 for the weekend which includes your coal. Bring your own mild steel, tools, anvil and forge. Registration forms may be found at the mining park's website www.TonopahHistoricMiningPark.com. Liability waivers must be signed in the mining park office. RSVP to Tonopahminingpark@gmail.com. For more info call (775)-482-9274. Hope to see you there!



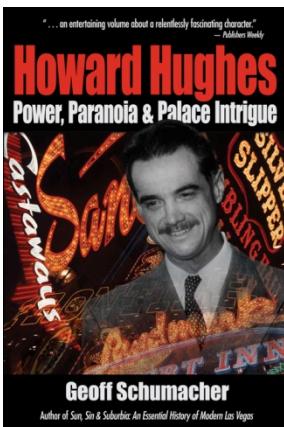
John Davis

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of THMP Foundation Trustee, John Davis. A former mining and civil engineer and land surveyor, Judge Davis was in his fourth, six-year term in the Fifth Judicial District. Davis was an athlete and avid outdoorsman. He will be remembered for his years of service to Nye County. Several memorials have been made to the mining park in his honor.

**California
Blacksmith
Association**

2011 Spring Conference

April 28 – May 1
In Vista, California
www.calsmith.org
Call (707) 527-5346 or
secretary@calsmith.org



Howard Hughes and the Mining Park?



If you enjoyed the Oscar-winning Martin Scorsese film, *The Aviator*, about the life of Howard Hughes, you may have been left wanting more. The movie concentrates on the first half of his life, with only a hint of his life in Las Vegas. Local newspaperman and author Geoff Schumacher has scratched that itch with his research on Hughes time in Nevada, with plenty of detail on his time in Tonopah and his mining claims buying spree. One of the people Schumacher relied on for insight was one of our own founding members and legendary Nevada prospector, John Livermore. According to Schumacher, Hughes had an "Interest in buying mining claims across Nevada. He wanted to take advantage of rising gold and silver prices. (John) Meier reported to Hughes (through [Robert] Maheu) that a big profit could be turned from the venture. He estimated silver, lead, zinc, gold and copper valued at \$150 million could be dug out of Nevada's old mines. "John Meier has estimated the approximate net profit after development would be \$50 million," Maheu said in a memo to Hughes...Meier spent millions buying old mining claims on the Comstock Lode near Virginia City, in the gold and silver country of Tonopah (where Hughes had secretly married Jean Peters in 1957), and in several other parts of the state. He plunked down \$750,000 for the Mizpah mine in Tonopah, the highest figure paid for a single claim...Hughes' mining investments generated excitement in rural Nevada communities longing for an economic boost. In Tonopah, where Hughes had purchased the original claims discovered by Jim Butler in

1900, some residents adopted a wait-and-see attitude, while others were confident that Hughes would come through....It eventually became clear that Meier had masterminded an intricate conspiracy in which he and several other associates profited handsomely from selling the worthless or near-worthless claims to Hughes at inflated prices (Hughes paid out a total of \$20 million for mining claims)....Bob Perchetti, a Tonopah native who operates a motel there today, said the old mines Meier bought around Tonopah weren't all worthless, but it would have been difficult to reopen. "There is good silver in those mines, but it's very, very deep," Perchetti explainedImagine what would have happened if Hughes had hired the best and the brightest to head up his Nevada mining venture. For example, what if he had hired John Livermore? Livermore is a legend in the gold-prospecting field...In a 2007 interview, Livermore remembered the days when Hughes was buying up old mining claims. Most of the claims were 'pretty worthless' he said. But if Hughes had hired the right people, he just might have hit pay dirt. In the '70's - just after Hughes left Las Vegas and abandoned the mining venture - there were several big gold discoveries in Nevada. Livermore found a new ore body about twenty miles north of Winnemucca in 1971. Hughes "idea wasn't wrong" Livermore said, "he just didn't have the right people advising him." *Reprinted with permission from Stephens Press.*
Geoff Schumacher. Howard Hughes: Power, Paranoia & Palace Intrigue. c.2008 www.howardhughesinlasvegas.com This book can be purchased at Amazon.com or directly from Stephens Press

DAR Project to Benefit the Park

Statewide the Daughters of the American Revolution or DAR have undertaken a project to help the mining park. Historic preservation is one of the three main missions of the international organization. Education, Patriotism and Historic Preservation together have, since 1890, been the goal nationally. During the administration of Karen Lampus, Nevada State Regent for 2010 and 2012, historic preservation has been chosen as a primary activity. DAR has dedicated a large bronze plaque recognizing the home of Blanche Sprague founder of DAR in Nevada February 12, 1910. Blanche Sprague came to Goldfield with her husband because he had mining interests in Central Nevada. The Nevada State Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) meet annually in Tonopah for their summer meetings.

The house is in Goldfield and is now known as "The Gables". Formal ceremonies were held August 22, 2010 during Goldfield Days recognizing a century of DAR in Nevada.

The other historic preservation activity that will in part benefit the Tonopah Historic Mining Park is to seek a national DAR "Special Projects Grant". Beautiful Faberge pendants have been especially designed for this effort, and they will be sold exclusively by DAR. They are 14K gold with Swarovski crystals. They portray a reticulated or open lantern with a lighted candle inside. The

pendant with candle represents the lamp or light of knowledge. This beautiful pendant can be worn as a necklace or charm on a bracelet. The pendant does not carry a DAR emblem, therefore it may be worn by anyone wishing to support the Tonopah Historic Mining Park. It comes in either red or blue Faberge enamel and costs \$65.00 plus shipping. Checks may be made out to Nevada State Society DAR. Orders may be placed by contacting Rebecca Eisenman, 2504 Rancho Bel Air Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89107 or Mimi Rodden, 509 Carmel Mesa Drive, Henderson, NV 89012.

This DAR historic preservation project emphasizes the importance of mining history to our Silver State. The founder of DAR in Nevada came to Goldfield because of the mining boom in the central part of our state. Now just over 100 years later, the organization is again stressing the importance of this vibrant industry. The pendant project ties yesteryear to the present and makes a positive commitment to the future.



Silver Peak:

THEN

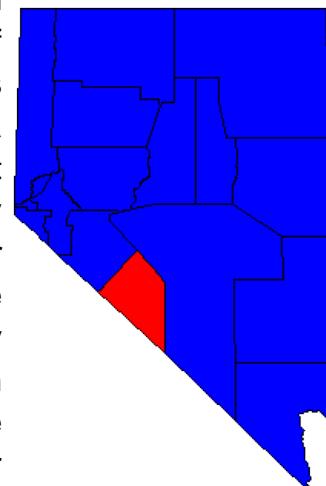
"Silver Peak completes a geographical triangle with Tonopah and Goldfield...Oldtimers always said Mexican prospectors were the first to discover Silver Peak, Nevada, and related evidence suggests that might be true ... Whoever arrived first had to tolerate plenty of solitude in this vast desert, silent except for the song of a few birds, the scuttle of a lizard scrambling under a sage brush, and the clank of a pick against hard rock. They must have believed the 1859 Comstock Lode wasn't the only rich strike to be found in Nevada...The first prospectors of record in the Silver Peak area arrived sometime in 1863 or 1864 from nearby mining camps...Claims were filed on seven locations during that first year between July 27, 1864 and August, 1865, and Silver Peak seemed destined for fame and fortune. Today, few recall the oldest stories that began with Silver Peak's magnetic attraction for East Coast dollars. Among its investors were Samuel J. Tilden, prominent politician who became Governor of New York State (1875-1876) and a presidential candidate in 1876; John I. Blair, wealthy banker and railroad financier from New Jersey; and E.L. Cord, famous for automobile manufacturing...They joined forces with locally famous miners whose names are still familiar in the area - names like Chiatovich, Hill, Humphry, Shirley, Vollmar...they kept Silver Peak from becoming just another ghost town." In 2002, Victoria Ford wrote, "Once again the Mineral Ridge is searching for a few gamblers to bet on another heyday. Thus Silver Peak begins a new century, not as a ghost town - never a ghost town - but as a mining town still in the game, still holding a good hand and still drawing the interest of outsiders who will

work in partnership with local residents."

Reprinted with Permission of University of Nevada Oral History Program. Silver Peak Never a Ghost Town by Victoria Ford, 2002.

NOW

In the 1960's lithium mining began in Silver Peak, which still boasts the country's only lithium-producing mine. Although Nevada's lithium industry has been eclipsed, the Chemetall Foote Lithium Operation in Clayton Valley still boasts our country's only lithium-producing mine today. According to the Las Vegas Sun (Lithium Could Give Nevada's Economy a Needed Jolt 2/4/2011) Chemetall Foote is spending \$57 million on upgrading and doubling the size of its operations. It's being aided by a \$28.4 million grant from the U.S Energy Department. Other sites in Nevada are being considered by Lithium Corp. in an area called Fish Lake Valley, west of Silver Peak and in King's Valley in northwestern Nevada by Western Lithium. With lithium uses ranging from batteries that may be in high demand for a new automobile industry as well as current production of laptop computers, glass, ceramics, and pharmaceuticals, the possibility of growth allows Silver Peak, once again, to hold the hope that it will retain its status, "Never a Ghost Town."



READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE: Lithium could give Nevada's Economy a Needed Boost, Las Vegas Sun, February 4, 2011
<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/feb/04/lithium-could-give-nevadas-economy-needed-jolt/>

New Display

By: Kelci Parks
Courtesy of Tonopah Times Bonanza

The Historic Tonopah Mining Park (park) recently added a new display to their collection.

After a request by park employee Heather Ingalls for local operations to design and donate exhibits, representative from Chemetall in Silver Peak quickly put together an impressive display that describes the company's history, operations and more.

Chemetall Foote, which is the only operating domestic lithium resource in the US, extracts lithium salts by brine evaporation. The brine is pumped from salt-rich aquifers beneath the desert and evaporated in large ponds on the desert surface. The concentrated brine is then pumped to a production plant at Silver Peak where it is converted into lithium carbonate, the basic raw material for lithium compounds.

Chemetall is the world's leading manufacturer of lithium-based compounds and an innovative developer of metal-based fine chemicals for use in specialty applications. Chemetall's lithium-based compounds are used in a variety of high growth applications, including base chemicals for numerous industries, drug intermediates elastomers for car tires and rubber soles, lithium batteries, thermoplastic materials and high performance greases. Chemetall has lithium production locations all over the world with facilities in Chile, Germany and Taiwan.

The park encompasses portions of four of the original major mining companies and spreads across more than 100 acres. The rich history of Tonopah is brought to life through preserved and restored equipment and buildings. Visitors are welcome to explore all of the buildings in a self-guided tour.

The park now features a trail system for mountain bike access and its latest addition is a six passenger ATV. The grounds are in a constant state of growth, adding new exhibits and restoration of existing buildings is an ongoing project. For more information on the new display, park hours or tours, contact the mining park at 482-9274.

Join the Tonopah Historic Mining Park A 501c(3) tax free organization

Individual	\$20
Family	\$25
Business.....	\$50
(Individual)	
Life.....	\$250
(Family/Business) Life.....	\$350
(Individual/Family Life)	
Benefactor.....	\$1000
(Business Life) Benefactor....	\$1500

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Mail your Membership to

Tonopah Historic Mining Park,

PO Box 965, Tonopah, NV 89049

COMPOSITION OF AN AUTOMOBILE (U.S.)

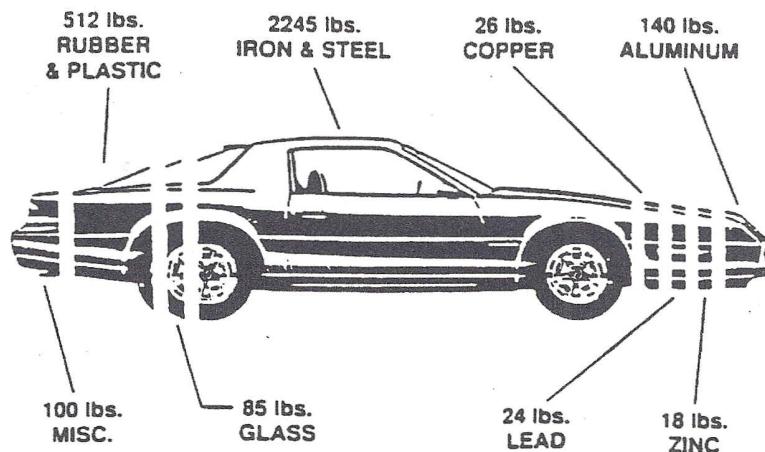
What we have illustrated here with the automobile applies to virtually every manufactured article you use every day of your life. The house you live in, the road you drive on, and even the glasses you may be using to read this brochure, all find their origin in our mines.

Fabricated Materials

2,245	lbs. iron & steel
26	lbs. copper
24	lbs. lead
18	lbs. zinc
512	lbs. rubber & plastics
85	lbs. glass
140	lbs. aluminum
100	lbs. upholstery, etc.
3,150	lbs. Total

Amount of Raw Materials Required

4,960	lbs. iron ore
2,600	lbs. copper ore
960	lbs. lead ore
720	lbs. zinc ore
980	lbs. crude oil
170	lbs. silica sand
560	lbs. bauxite
250	lbs. misc. materials
11,200	lbs. Total



IF IT CAN'T BE GROWN, IT HAS TO BE MINED

Originally adapted by the Western Mining Council, Rand - El Paso Mountains Chapter, P.O. Box 127, Randsburg, CA 93554.

LAST TRAINING

At least 50 people from around the state are expected to participate in Nye County's first **LAST** training scheduled for April 29 through May 1. **LAST**, a search and rescue acronym for "Locate, Assess, Stabilize and Transport", will bring search and rescue, mine rescue, fire rescue, law enforcement, and emergency medical responders to Tonopah Historic Mining Park to participate in this first-of-its-kind event.

Patty Winters, EMS Coordinator/Trainer with Nye County Emergency Services, said "We chose the Mining Park because we wanted a mining theme and believed that there was no better place than this to stage our training. This is a unique opportunity since there are many

parts of the park we can use to expose our participants to mining hazards and teach them the proper **LAST** methods. There's also no safer place to do this."

The multiple classroom and hands-on training

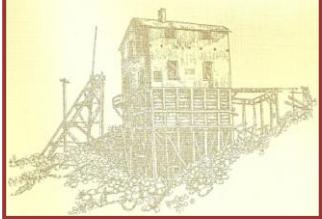


classes include slope rescue, with a special night slope rescue scheduled during the weekend. Tactical medic training will be offered for law enforcement officers and SWAT officers who are medically

trained. Lt. Mike Dolfin of the Nye County Sheriff's Office will provide UTV/ATV safety and awareness training, as well as weapons of mass destruction training. WMD training is a federal requirement for all emergency responders and helps agencies improve their chances to qualify for federal project funding. "Stay Out and Stay Alive" training for youth 12 and older will also be offered, as well as a CPR and first aid course for scouts and other youth so they can certify or recertify.

Registration opens on Friday, April 29 with classroom and hands on sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information contact Patty Winters at pwinters@co.nye.nv.us.



NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:

TONOPAH HISTORIC MINING PARK

PHYSICAL ADDRESS - 110 BURRO, TONOPAH, NV 89049

MAILING ADDRESS - PO BOX 965, TONOPAH, NV 89049

WWW.TONOPAHHISTORICMININGPARK.COM

Continued from page 1

On Sunday, the amateurs take over. Young and old participate in single and team mucking, a mining relay race, and the popular wheelbarrow obstacle course. Age categories start at 7 years and under. Special sized ore cars are used for the younger divisions but all those older than 15 get to muck the same amount of dirt as the professionals. There are a lot of other activities happening at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park while the championships are going on. The mining park is offering free admission to the park's 110-acre walking tour. An arm wrestling tournament also takes place on Sunday. Numerous vendors ply their trades to the visitors. It is a wonderful weekend for the whole family and a unique experience you will ever forget!

