The Great Debate Rolls On

The Great Debate is a fundraising competition for the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum. Starting in January, SME’s Mining Engineering magazine began running a monthly article asking the question: Which segment of the mining industry is the most critical to meeting the needs of the civilized world? The articles are intended to be good-natured satire about mining industry stereotypes, and encourage donations to the NMHFM.

‘Spirits’ Postponed Due to Heavy Snows

Originally scheduled for Friday, February 7th, Spirits in the Shaft lost none of its impact by moving to Saturday the 8th when a serious snowstorm blanketed Leadville and the surrounding areas. Snowy and icy roads prevented some of the wine and whiskey vendors from travelling, as well as some of our guests.

Date Set for Induction Banquet

The 33rd National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet is set for Saturday, October 24, 2020 at the Marriott South Denver at Park Meadows in Lone Tree, Colorado. Plans to hold the banquet in Las Vegas, in conjunction with MINEExpo were abandoned earlier this year due to high costs.
When it came time for Spirits in the Shaft guests to say “dollface” and enter through the secret passageway to the Speak-easy, everyone was all smiles. The Roaring Twenties theme celebrated the hundredth anniversary of women receiving the right to vote, prohibition and many other social changes.

All pedestrians were on the alert as Chicken Bill, driver of the getaway car, was accused of bootlegging.

Several ‘police raids’ were conducted during the evening. A number of Leadvillains didn’t grease the gumshoe’s palm and spent some hard time in a cell waiting for bail.

Laura Kinyon models her first place winning outfit for the 1920s costume contest. The grand prize was a collectible slice of the Matchless Mine.

Once again, our magnificent sponsors came through, even with the change in plans, and provided fabulous food and beverages for all of our glammed up guests.

For those who wanted to attend on Friday, and could not be here for the Saturday night celebration, please accept our sincere regrets. Refunds were given to those who requested them, along with the hope that they will continue to support the museum in the future.

Plans are already under way for next year’s Spirits in the Shaft event which is currently scheduled for Saturday, February 6th, 2021.

Please mark your calendars and check our website or future newsletters to keep current on details as they become available.

It was a good bet you could find something tasty at the Silver Dollar Saloon’s food table.

Spirits played their tunes while the guests danced on.
Museums in the Time of Coronavirus

As the coronavirus spreads throughout the world, the media report that many large museums, such as the Louvre and Metropolitan Museum of Art, have closed. We kept the NMHFM’s doors open to visitors as long as possible, but it became clear last week that the best course of action was to close.

To help ensure that our visitors remained safe and healthy while we continued operations, we enhanced our cleaning procedures. Our housekeeper disinfected handrails and other surfaces that visitors and staff touched frequently, including interactive video screens and exhibits, on a daily basis.

We placed bottles of hand sanitizer and boxes of tissues in strategic places throughout our facilities. The restrooms were fully stocked with liquid soap and paper towels, and directions for properly washing hands were posted near each sink.

As visitors paid at the admissions desk, they were encouraged to visit the nearest restroom and wash their hands before entering the exhibit galleries. Any NMHFM staff members who felt ill were expected to remain at home until their symptoms passed.

The majority of businesses and tourist attractions in Leadville and surrounding counties have shut down or severely curtailed their operations. Our paid admissions decreased significantly last week, even though it was school break season and we usually have many visitors this time of year. Unfortunately, some visitors displayed symptoms such as coughing that could be signs they were carrying coronavirus.

We arrived at the difficult decision to close to the public. Based on current projections, that may mean being closed until the end of March, if not longer. For now, staff members are continuing to come to work if they are healthy to catch up on deferred maintenance and other projects.

Naturally, closing our doors to the public means we have lost critically-needed admissions income. If you would like to help us pay our bills, which will continue even while we are closed, please support our operations by sending a donation by mail, calling (719) 486-1229 with a credit card, or going to https://mininghalloffame.org/donations.
The Great Debate Rolls On...

Miners, Engineers, Metallurgists, Young Professionals, Women, Geologists, Reclamation Specialists—Everyone, get on board and join the Debate!

If you work in the mining industry, or did at one time, you probably know about the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum. If it has been a while since you visited, please come and see what we have been up to. Some of our exhibits have been updated, and we have more plans on the table. We need your donations to complete our vision of being a public voice to tell your story, the stories of those who came before, and the story of where the mining industry is going in the future.

Use this website address to vote and donate at the same time: bit.ly/EventsGrtDeb

Some of our favorite arguments, thus far:

“...there is no god named Engin. There is one named Geos. Just saying.”
Douglas B. Silver

“Let’s not forget that a SUPER-GENE is NOT a geologic term, but what mine superintendents pass on to their children! ...And a hanging wall is the proper final resting-place of a typical exploration manager.”
Timothy Arnold

“When you take a close look at everybody else, it’s no wonder the wizard is hiding.“
William Lipps
Points are scored when people vote for the group that best expresses the arguments which reflect their passion. One point is scored for each donor to the cause. Anyone who donates at least $100 will score an additional 10 points per $100. The finale is in planning where the title and bragging rights will be awarded at the National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet to be held in Denver this coming October. For more information visit our website at mininghalloffame.org and click on the red ‘Great Debate Page’.

Anyone can join the debate and “vote” while making a donation to the NMHFM. Go to:
bit.ly/EventsGrtDeb

Thank you to the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) for plugging The Great Debate at their Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Campaign buttons were handed out and attendees were encouraged to get involved in the debate, vote, and put some donations on the scoreboard for their segments.
The High Grade

Curator’s Corner: New Temporary Exhibit Debuts

We are always rotating new exhibitions through our temporary galleries that are fun, engaging, and teach our visitors about the subject of mining. This spring, we are debuting *Perspectives: Aerial Photographs of Nevada Mine Sites* in our third floor temporary gallery.

This exhibit is primarily a photograph exhibit with a few physical objects, and maps relating to the work of the late F.E. “Bill” Dubois of Nevada. Dubois was the Nevada state mine inspector from 1975 to 1981, and maintained many positions in Nevada’s mining industry throughout his career. He captured the photographs in this exhibition in the 1980s and 1990s, taking photos out of his personal Cessna “taildragger” aircraft. Bill was taught to fly as a teenager by his father, a flight instructor for the United States during World War II.

From solo flights at 16 to building a homemade airstrip on his ranch in Fallon, Nevada, flying always played a large roll in Dubois’ life. He mixed that passion used as a snapshot of the industry in the state at any given time.

His photos have appeared in numerous publications, public offices, and museum exhibitions. He described his work in a 1994 oral history: “One of the things I have done, kind of on a personal endeavor, is I’ve been documenting the tremendous growth of the mining industry in Nevada, by taking aerial photographs... I’ve taken pictures of all the major operations in the state, the entire state, about every two or three years. And I’ve done this about four times... (It) Combines photog-

Dubois’ photographs depict the evolution of many of the nation’s major mines in Nevada from the 1980s through the 1990s.

Model of Cessna taildragger aircraft.
We are pleased to introduce Amber Johnson, whom we have hired to be the new Events Manager. In that position, she will be responsible for planning and managing the NMHFM’s events, including the National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and Spirits in the Shaft: A Wine, Beer, and Whiskey Tasting.

Amber comes to us with a background in sales and marketing, administration, fundraising, and event planning.

Francine Webber, who has been our Events Manager for five years, will remain with us during the period in which Amber learns about the NMHFM, its events, and the mining industry. Eventually, Francine plans to leave us to pursue other career opportunities. We hate to have her leave and are grateful for the five wonderful years she has spent with us.

Francine Webber
Outgoing Events Manager

Events manager contacts:
Francine Webber
Francine@mininghalloffame.org
Amber Johnson
Amber@mininghalloffame.org

Endowment Campaign Progress

We now have received more than $200,000 in donations and pledges for the endowment campaign. This is welcome news, but we need your help to reach our first big goal of $500,000. Once we meet that challenge, the Avenir Foundation will match the donations with $500,000, creating a $1 million endowment. We will be able to draw on the interest from the endowment to help with operations and enhance our sustainability. Donations to the endowment are tax-deductible, and Colorado residents may be eligible for a 25% state income tax credit. Won’t you help us claim that first $500,000 from the Avenir Foundation? Just slip a check in the mail or contact Stephen Whittington at director@mininghalloffame.org to discuss how you can have a big impact on the future of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum.
The High Grade

33rd Annual Induction Banquet Set For National Mining Hall of Fame

When outgoing Events Manager Francine Webber realized how much the prices in Las Vegas had skyrocketed, it became apparent that to meet our fiduciary responsibility to the organization, the staff would need to plan the banquet closer to home.

The Marriott Denver South at Park Meadows is a new location for the NMHFM in the southern part of the Denver metro area.

Our emcee for the evening will be Douglas B. Silver, one of 2018’s inductees, and a popular speaker at many mining industry events.

Instead of a Young Professionals after-party this year, we will devote that time to a finale of The Great Debate. Details are being discussed, but it is sure to be great entertainment for guests of all age groups.

Spirits in the Shaft, cont.

Each year, Spirits in the Shaft is made possible by our many sponsors. Thank you all for your support, encouragement, and flexibility through unpredictable situations!

Alpine Adventures Dogsledding
Alpine Furniture
Central Colorado Title & Escrow
Circle K
City on a Hill
Coal Creek Distillery
Community Banks of Colorado
Deerhammer Distilling Co.
Delaware Hotel
Dillon Dam Brewery
Eddyline Brewing
Elks Lodge #0236
Freeport McMoRan - Climax Molybdenum
First Mountain Bank
Herald Democrat
Kingman Estate Wines
KW Restoration and Construction
Leadville Liquors
Mt. Massive Liquors
Odell Brewing
Periodic Brewing
ReMax Aspen Leaf Realty
Rocky Mountain Drinking Water
Silver Dollar Saloon
Silver King Inn & Suites
Silver Llama
Snitching Lady Distillery
Steve & Christine Whittington Tennessee Pass Cafe
Treeline Kitchen
Tommyknocker Brewery

Also, a big thank you to every one of our volunteers!
2020 Events Calendar

**Spring**

Leadville/Lake County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Hosted by NMHFM & Climax

Escape Room To be announced

*Please check ahead for all events, as cancellations may be necessary, depending on the Coronavirus situation*

Aquamarine

**Summer**

Best Selling Western June 6, 10-11 am Author Chris Ens' visit at museum, talk & discussion followed by reception at The Healy House

Matchless After Dark June 27, 8-10:30 pm

Boom Days August 8, 3-5 pm Family Activities at the Museum

Gold

**Fall**

33rd Annual National Mining Hall Of Fame Induction Banquet & The Great Debate Finale October 24, 6-9 pm October 24, 9-11 pm

Halloween Trick or Treat at the museum October 31, 5-7 pm

Yule Marble

**Winter**

Community Appreciation Day December 4, 9 am—7 pm Free Admission for Lake County Residents

Spirits in the Shaft February 6, 2021 A Wine, Beer & Whiskey Tasting Event 6-9:30 pm

Rhodochrosite
The High Grade Temporary Exhibit, cont.

raphy, combines flying, it combines geology... It combines engineering. And some day will provide a valuable documentary record of a certain point in time of what was going on out there in the industry.”

This exhibition comes to us on loan from Dubois’ family, and will be on display through September of 2020.

We hope you will get a chance to visit the exhibition, understand the importance of Nevada mines to our nation’s industry and society, and see them as Dubois was able to.

3-D Map of Nevada showing the locations of mines photographed by F.E. “Bill” Dubois.

Board Member Honored

The Pennsylvania-Anthracite Section of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration / American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers recently awarded an Honorary Membership to NMHFM Board of Directors’ Member Jessica Kogel.

The award was in recognition of her outstanding scientific contributions to industrial minerals resource development and environmental stewardship; for outstanding service and leadership to SME, and for redirecting the NIOSH Mining Division to improve miner health and safety. Congratulations Jessica!
NEW Kids’ Room in Gift Shop!

Bring the kids in to explore, and celebrate the addition of some brand new items just for them!

The NMHFM Gift Shop now carries Legos, some fun science kits, and digging for dinosaurs sets.

More STEM choices for kids that LOVE SCIENCE!

Everybody’s favorite rock wall is still here, but with a brand new look!

And now returning by popular demand, check out the miners’ hard hats with optional headlamps.

All gift shop purchases go directly into our operations, keeping our doors open and our stories about mining alive!
The High Grade

Museum location:
120 W. 9th Street
P.O. Box 981
Leadville, CO 80461
Phone: 719-486-1229

Matchless Mine & Baby Doe’s Cabin:
1.25 miles east of the museum on 7th Street
Phone: 719-486-1229
Season Opens: May 23, 2020

Please Follow Us:

Website:
MININGHALLOFFAME.ORG

“Tell the story of mining, its people, its importance to the American public, and to society’s sustainability.”

A federally chartered non-profit, located in the famous 1880s silver boomtown of Leadville, Colorado at the top of the Rocky Mountains, the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum is a monument to the memory of the men and women who pioneered the discovery, development, and processing of our nation’s natural resources. We also look forward to many more successes and the advanced technology that will drive the nation’s mining industry in the future.

Known as the “Smithsonian of the Rockies” and the “Premier Showcase of American Mining,” the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum was established in 1987. Our museum houses 25,000 square feet of interactive and informative exhibits showcasing our collection of mining’s colorful past, present, and future. Come in and discover why mining matters to you!