The NMHFM is partnering with HistoriCorps to rehabilitate the hoist house/blacksmith shop at the historic Matchless Mine during 2020. The project is being paid for in part by a History Colorado—State Historical Fund grant of $104,332. The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation and Climax Molybdenum are providing an additional $29,000 in support through the Climax Area Community Investment Fund.

The Matchless Mine, owned by the NMHFM, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The mine is a prime example of vernacular mining construction in the Leadville Mining District during the district’s production years (1859-1926). It contributes to understanding of the mining industry during that period. The mine is significant for industry history as a working silver mine.

The Matchless Mine is also significant for social history because of its association with Horace Austin Warner (H.A.W.) Tabor and Elizabeth “Baby Doe” McCourt Tabor. H.A.W. Tabor was two-term Mayor of Leadville, two-term Colorado Lieutenant Governor, and a 30-day-term U.S. Senator. In 1882, Tabor divorced his first wife, Augusta Pierce Tabor and married the legendary “Baby Doe” in a ceremony held in Washington, D.C. during his term as U.S. Senator. The repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1893 plus the Tabors’ extravagant spending depleted their vast wealth.

H.A.W. Tabor died virtually penniless in Denver in 1899. Elizabeth retreated to Leadville and the Matchless Mine in 1901. She spent much of the rest of her life in seclusion, living in the superintendent’s cabin,

Southwest corner of the Matchless Hoist House, showing the bowed roof and concerning conditions to be addressed in rehabilitation.
Spirits in the Shaft:
A Celebration of Women in Mining

Shhhhh! Keep this news under your fedora. Word has it that a new Speakeasy is opening in town at the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum February 7th, 2020. It’s going to be the bee’s knees! All Swells and Dolls should put on their glad rags and hoof it on over. Knock three times, give the password and you’re in!

Sample hootch and bootleg (i.e. bootleg spirits) and have some simple grub too. Be careful, though, inside sources tell us that a stool pigeon is lurking around Leadville snitching to the coppers and gumshoes. You might want to bring some extra clams in case some of our citizens get arrested and you will need to spring them out of the hoosegow.


Thank you to our Amazing Food & Beverage Sponsors!
In Memoriam: Thomas V. Falkie
By Tom Falkie, Jr.

Thomas Falkie passed away peacefully in Newtown Square, PA on Friday, November 1, 2019. We lost a loving and accomplished father and grandfather on that day.

"I have known Tom since my first job out of school when he was teaching at Penn State. He was awarded our gold medal a couple of years ago."

Betty Gibbs, MMSA

Born in Mt. Carmel, PA to Victor and Aldona Falkie, coal miner and factory worker, respectively, dad was a proud Penn State grad ('56, '58, '61 mining engineering). All three of his degrees were attained on private merit scholarships for which he was forever grateful. His passions included golf, traveling the world and the United States and his annual family picnics with as many as 130 showing up for the party.

His professional career spanned private industry starting with International Minerals and Chemicals Corp. and ending at Berwind Natural Resources Corp. as President and Chairman. Between he was appointed Director of the US Bureau of Mines and headed the Department of Mining Engineering at Penn State. He received many industry awards including Distinguished Alumni of Penn State, Distinguished member of SME, honorary member AIME, and recipient of the Robert Stefanko award for Distinguished Achievement in Mineral Engineering. He was a member of the National Academy of Engineering and was inducted into the National Mining Hall of Fame in 2017. He also served on several advisory boards at Penn State and in the mining industry. He was a pioneer in the emerging areas of computer application and management science in his industry.

During this accomplished career his family lived in St. College, Skokie, IL, central Florida (before Disney), northern Virginia and finally settling in Newtown Square for the past 43 years.

He is predeceased by wife Jean of Shamokin; his parents; brother Lenny and sister Sugar and several cherished in-laws and nephews and niece. Survived by children, Ann Marie Falkie, Thomas V. Falkie, Jr., Lawrence W. Falkie, Michael J. Falkie, and Christine Mack (John); grandchildren Noah, Hanna, Emma and Frances, as well as at least 30 nieces and nephews, and numerous grandnieces and grand-

"I loved his stories of he and his buddies flying out to Steamboat to go skiing each year."

Barbara Filas, Filas Engineering & Environmental Services

nephews, poker and golf buddies and many friends in his profession.

The family would like to thank all of the many medical staff and caregivers in Pennsylvania and south-west Florida for their compassion and outstanding care.

If desired, please donate to a charity of your choice or to any Penn State scholarship fund in his memory. Please know that dad was a humble man who treated everyone he met with kindness and respect.

"Tom was a truly a great advocate for mining. We worked together on some National Research Council efforts, and his input was invaluable."

Jonathan Price, Nevada State Geologist Emeritus

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Jonathan Price, Nevada State Geologist Emeritus
The word “uranium” brings to mind all sorts of imaginary images of green, glowing rocks and government scientists conducting experiments. However, uranium and the mining of uranium ore have a very real history outside the realm of imagination.

Uranium was first isolated as an independent element in 1789 by Martin Heinrich Klaproth, a German chemist from Berlin. He named the element after Uranus, the ancient Greek god of the sky. Uranium’s radioactive nature was not understood for another 50 years until radioactivity was discovered by the French engineer Henri Becquerel when he left a sample of uranium salt lying on top of an unexposed photographic plate in a dark drawer. The plate fogged up as though it had been exposed to sunlight. He surmised that the uranium must emit an invisible light or ray of some kind. His research was continued, famously, by Marie and Pierre Curie who made advancements in the scientific understanding of radioactivity with the idea that it could be used in medicine. This was the start of the field of nuclear medicine which we know today as “radiology.”

Before World War II, uranium was mined as a byproduct in ores such as vanadium which were used for yellow pigment in dyes and paints. This utilization dates back to at least the ancient Romans who used uranium ores to create a yellow glaze for ceramics in 79 CE. As the need for uranium for bomb research increased, so did the mining of uranium deposits around the world. Initially, the United States purchased uranium from the Belgian Congo, but switched to ores from Colorado to ensure the nation could sustain its own nuclear sufficiency without foreign aid. The Manhattan Project purchased large amounts of vanadium, containing uranium, from Colorado mines during the research process.

The United States was the largest producer of uranium in the 20th century, with large deposits mined in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and many other states. National Mining Hall of Fame inductee and Navajo rancher Paddy Martinez discovered rocks which he recognized to contain uranium near Haystack Mesa outside of Grants, New Mexico on Santa Fe Railway land in July 1950. This discovery would lead to the foundation of the Grants Mineral District, the largest uranium producing mining district in the country. This uranium was an important resource in the development of nuclear energy.

The large amount of uranium ore mined on Navajo land led to the contamination of...
The High Grade

Hoist House Project, continued from page 1

Structuring a concrete retaining wall, and replacing deteriorated materials in the foundation, walls, and roof. All work will comply with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

HistoriCorps personnel will rehabilitate the building. HistoriCorps is a 501(c)3 dedicated to engaging volunteers in preserving and sustaining historic structures on public lands (including on private lands accessible to the public) for future generations. HistoriCorps and the NMHFM worked together successfully in 2017 to stabilize the headframe at the Matchless Mine.

Scheuber + Darden Architects will provide architectural and engineering services for the project. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants will perform on-site archaeological monitoring during ground-disturbing activities (excavation around the building’s foundation).

Project activities should become noticeable during late August and will be in full swing throughout September. From Memorial Day weekend until rehabilitation begins, guided and self-guided surface tours will be offered daily. Once project activities begin, self-guided tours will no longer be available.

Trained docents will continue to guide tours of parts of the mine that are safe to visit daily until Labor Day, and then on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the rest of September. Guided tours for groups of ten or more making advance reservations will be available other days of the week.

This project demonstrates the NMHFM’s commitment to preserving the vestiges of historic mining while providing the public with unbiased information about modern mining practices and exploring the future of the industry. Donations to support the project can be made through ColoradoGives.org at bit.ly/MatchHoist.

The 33rd Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet has been moved from Las Vegas, as originally planned. Increased costs in Vegas do not make it possible for our event to be held there in 2020. Please stay tuned for details as we plan the banquet to take place once again in Denver, Colorado.
The Great Debate Kicks Off!

Recent Hall of Fame Inductee Doug Silver has come up with an ingenious way for the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum to engage industry professionals in our mission, raise funds for our cause, and have fun doing it!

Starting in January, 2020, donations will be accepted by the NMHFM for participation in The Great Debate. What is The Great Debate, you ask?

Send your best ideas to these “Thought Leaders” to fortify your sector’s position. Challenge your friends (even those outside of the industry) to donate. Check Mining Engineering’s social media and the museum’s website bit.ly/EventsGrtDeb frequently for updates during the challenge to keep abreast of sector rankings. The two finalists will hold a final smackdown debate at the 33rd Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in the fall of 2020 to settle The Great Debate once and for all.

Visit the NMHFM website for more information on the 33rd Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet where tickets will be available for the induction banquet and Smackdown!

Team Sector Leaders for the Great Debate include:

- Douglas Silver (Dugag@aol.com) representing geoscientists (geologists, geochemists, geophysicists, land).
- Tim Arnold (midasminer@gmail.com) representing miners (engineers, equipment operators).
- Marc LeVier (marc.levier@comcast.net) representing metallurgists and processing people.

This forum has been established to determine once and for all (until next time) which segment of the mining industry is most influential, indispensable and valuable to civilization. This will be done through a series of articles, published in SME’s monthly Mining Engineering magazine. Content for these articles will include bragadocio and good-natured competitive challenges to back up each sector’s claims with donations to the NMHFM.
Navajo property, and significant illness amongst the Navajo population. Mining companies did not properly ventilate mines, or take proper safety precautions against the radon gas being emitted. After only a decade of mining in the area, cancer rates amongst the Navajo spiked to abnormally high levels, which still persist today. The Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with members of the Navajo Nation have been conducting clean-up efforts throughout the region, though remaining mine tailings, contaminated ground water, and hundreds of abandoned uranium mills remain to be identified, cleaned, and processed. Even then, the Navajo Nation will feel the lasting effects of uranium mining for decades to come.

The Navajo were not the only miners who were exposed to radon by uranium mining in the second half of the 20th century and the United States Congress has passed multiple acts related to granting reparations to those who were exposed to high levels of radiation over the course of their careers. Today the industry is closely monitored and regulated by the EPA and the US Department of Energy, though the majority of uranium mining no longer occurs in the USA. The nations of Canada and Kazakhstan currently produce the majority of uranium mined for the world’s consumption. Increased safety techniques such as dust suppression, and remote handling of ores minimize radiation exposure to the miners, the general public, and the environment.
We will keep an updated scoreboard on our website. Under the Events tab, select The Great Debate!
www.mininghalloffame.org

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Challenge Points. Each donor gets one point. If the same individual donates five times, it is still worth one point. But when five individuals donate, it is worth five points. Please designate how many points should be credited to each group.

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- Engineers
- Metallurgists
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- Women

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To pay with credit or debit card online, visit bit.ly/Gr8Deb8. Please note that a convenience fee applies to online payments. This does not go to the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, but rather the service provider.

To pay by check, please make payable to National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum and mail to:
P.O. Box 981
Leadville, CO 80461
Please make sure to enclose your Great Debate Donation Form and in the memo field, print “The Great Debate.”

To pay with a credit card by phone, call Teresa, Francine or Robin at 719-486-1229. No convenience fee applies.

EACH DONOR MUST FILL OUT ONE OF THESE FORMS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR TAX PURPOSES.

You don’t need to write an article to play, or pay! Fill out one of these Donation Forms (if not paying online) and vote today!
**Events Calendar**

**Fri. Feb. 7, 2020**  
Spirits in the Shaft - A wine, beer & whiskey tasting event  

6:00 PM—9:00 PM  
Set in the Roaring 1920s!  
Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the federal constitutional right to vote!  
Featuring: Guest appearance by Sarah Gjertson, artist—Human Imprint Exhibit showing women in historic Colorado mining camps. Rumor has it that the unsinkable Margaret Brown may make an appearance, as well.  
1920s Costume Contest  
Tickets on sale NOW! Purchase on our website www.mininghalloffame.org—Events tab (convenience fee applies) OR call 719-486-1229

**Date TBD**  
33rd Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Banquet  
Denver, Colorado  
Please stay tuned for more information.

**Fridays @ 6 PM**  
Mining Goes to the Movies II Film Series  
Jan. 17—Feb. 28

In addition, we are in planning stages for:  
Artist Sarah Gjertson, Human Imprint Exhibit (end of February)  
Author visit by Chris Enss speaking on women in mining (June)  
Escape Room Nights (coming soon)  
The Matchless After Dark (tbd)  
Extended Friday night hours at the museum 5-8 PM starting January 3rd

Check our next newsletter for updates, or visit the Events tab on our website at www.mininghalloffame.org.
As we say goodbye to 2019, and enter a new decade, we are reaching out to our local Leadville and Lake County residents with good cheer. Our summer visitors have a major impact on our income each year, which benefits the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum. However, without our local supporters, the museum would be a hulking harbinger of things to come each winter.

Three weeks ago, the museum hosted our annual Community Appreciation Day, inviting residents to visit at no charge. A little cocoa and hot cider warmed everyone up, and our multi-talented volunteer, Jan Gohl, provided visitors with delicious treats to savor.

It seems appropriate at this time to remember why Leadville, Colorado was chosen years ago to host the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum. Quite simply put, Leadville is deserving of this designation.

In its heyday, Leadville housed a population of approximately 50,000 miners, bankers, lawyers, merchants, preachers and ladies of the night. First the gold, then the silver produced from the area contributed significantly to the wealth of many of our country’s industrial magnates. The city also portrays a fine example of mining communities in the United States. Leadville has seen repeated mining booms and busts, as well as steady, mildly productive years from harvesting the earth’s resources.

With the leadership of Freeport-McMoRan, current owners of the Climax Molybdenum mine, the city is now actively planning for a day when mining will have a very small impact on the local economy.

Leadville has seen the EPA come in and demand the cleanup of old mine sites, and most notably, the creation of the Mineral Belt Trail that now provides residents with an opportunity to hike, bike, and enjoy the outdoor beauty of the region and view mining history.

Many of Leadville’s citizens came forward at the time of the creation of the National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, to pledge their support for this institution, and many continue to offer their generous donations today.

Sitting at the top of the Rocky Mountains, Leadville residents have developed toughness, resilience, a down-to-earth attitude, and the optimism it takes to keep moving forward through all of life’s challenges. ‘Weathering the storm’ in Leadville does not just refer to snow, blizzards and avalanches.

The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum takes this opportunity once a year to publicly acknowledge the good friends, neighbors, and gracious efforts of the citizens that make up the community here in Leadville Colorado.

May our mutual friendship and prosperity endure through this next decade and beyond!

Happy New Year!
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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
Closed for the Season

“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.

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!

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