The High Grade

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 building was built in 1899 and was formerly the Leadville High School. Our museum houses 25,000 square feet of interactive and informative exhibits showcasing our collection of mining's colorful past, present and future.

Phone: 719-486-1229
Fax: 719-486-3927
E-mail: info@mininghalloffame.org
Please send your story ideas to Attention: Editor
120 W. 9th Street
PO Box 981
Leadville, CO 80461

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NMHM Events Calendar
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The High Grade

A non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation that depends on your contributions to preserve mining’s heritage

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Mismatchless Headframe Rehabilitation

The Matchless Mine headframe rehabilitation was successfully completed in September. Parts of the wooden structure standing over the last remaining open shaft on the mine’s claim are probably more than 125 years old. Intense sunlight during Leadville summers and heavy snows during long winters had taken a toll on the timbers, some of which were rotten beyond repair. The historic preservation project saved what could be salvaged and replaced what could not to ensure that the structure will still be standing well into the 22nd century.

The NMHFM’s Matchless Mine is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its association with 19th-century Silver Baron Horace Tabor and his second wife, Elizabeth “Baby Doe,” makes it significant to Leadville, Colorado, and the nation’s mining history. During the winter of 2014-2015, the site’s powder magazine was rehabilitated with money from the State Historical Fund, Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, and individual contributions.

Staff and volunteers associated with HistoriCorps performed the work on the headframe during two sessions that began September 11. HistoriCorps is a nonprofit historic preservation organization based in Denver that works to save historic structures on public lands and on private land accessible to the public.

The NMHF&M and HistoriCorps signed an agreement to preserve the headframe in accordance with recommendations in a 2010 Historic Structure Assessment and a 2013 Schematic Design partially funded by the State Historical Fund.

HistoriCorps personnel treated timbers that could be salvaged with plastic wood and borate preservative. Timbers in addition to old ones which were preserved.

The Matchless Mine headframe boasts some new timbers in addition to old ones which were preserved.

The NMHFM and HistoriCorps

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The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum Calendar of Events

Friday, October 13th  Mining Goes to the Movies!
6:00—9:00 p.m.  A weekly series in partnership with Colorado Mountain College. Cost is $10 for 1 or all 8.
Moolick Library at NMHFM, Leadville
The Mining Theme Movie Line Up Is:

October 13th  The Devil's Miner
October 20th  Armageddon
October 27th  Gold
November 3rd  North Country
November 10th  Matewan
November 17th  October Sky
November 24th  No Movie
Thanksgiving Holiday
December 1st  Thunderheart
December 8th  Pale Rider
Each movie night will include a discussion exploring how mining is portrayed in film.

Friday, February 9th  Wine at the Mine! Event
6:00—9:00 p.m.  National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum

Please check our website, Events tab, for more details and updates! www.mininghalloffame.org

2017 National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet Shines

A beautiful venue, 300 guests, great drink and food, a one-of-a-kind auctioneer, and witty honorees made the 30th Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet a night to be remembered! Thank you to Gary Goldberg for serving as our host and emcee for the evening. We so appreciate everyone who attended in support of our evening’s honorees.

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Frank McAllister
High Desert Gold
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Royal Gold

Francine Webber
I’d like to acknowledge our sponsors for making this gala event possible!

Greg McKelvey accepting for his father, Dr. Vincent E. McKevelly, Inductee #239
Inductee #237 Dr. Thomas V. Falkie
Inductee #238 Leonard Harris
Inductee #240 Gordon R. Parker

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In Memoriam

George E. Lensch
Oct. 5, 1925—Sept. 1, 2017

George E. Lensch, one of our founding members, passed away on September 1st, just shy of his 92nd birthday. He was a son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, farmhand, soldier, driller, manager, president, mentor and a friend to all.

Born and raised on a farm near Westcliffe, Colorado, his tales of the early days are fascinating. After serving in Japan in WWII, he was licensed to fly a single engine airplane. George then joined Boyles Brothers as a driller and spent ten years drilling underground in the Climax Mine near Leadville, Colorado. His clear leadership skills led to promotions as Supervisor, District Manager, Operations Manager, Vice President and President. His most challenging drilling project was NORAD. After retiring, he continued to consult for Boyles for many years. He was well known and respected throughout the mining industry, and everybody liked George. He had a genuine love and respect for people, was entirely low-key, spoke softly, but had a clear idea of the right way and wrong way to handle things.

For much more information on George’s life and career, his biography entitled Farmhand to Driller to President is available in print. NMHFM is grateful for George Lensch’s foresight and support over the years, and offers our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

DONATIONS: In lieu of any contributions to the family, please send donations to The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, P.O. Box 981, 120 W. 9th St. Leadville CO 80461.

Luvern Willard Eklund

Luvern (Lew) Eklund, a 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee, died on July 17, 2017 at the age of 85 surrounded by family. He was born to Arthur and Gertrude (Engan) Eklund on January 13, 1932 on their farm near Palermo, North Dakota. In 1950 Lew went to work for a seismograph crew and this marked the career change that would alter his life forever. Starting from the ground up, Lew worked his way to driller for a seismograph drilling company with Doc Young. Then, as part of a team with Evans & Cole Drilling Company, he worked on the Garrison Dam in North Dakota.

Lew Eklund owned and managed Eklund Drilling, with the help of his wife JoAnn, from 1960-1988. Their son, Lance, bought the company in 1988, and continued to build the reputation and legacy of Eklund Drilling. Boart Longyear purchased the company in 2008. Eklund Drilling Company was committed to their clients, their employees and safety of all, and well-known for their generosity to their employees, the communities they lived in and the quality of service given to each and every client. Eklund Drilling began working for Newmont Gold Company in 1963 with Mort White. That unique strategic business union lasted over 45 years and because of the pioneering efforts from both companies, microscopic gold recovery techniques were developed which revolutionized the industry and led to the discovery and eventual recovery of gold along the Carlin Trend and other areas globally with this ground-breaking technology.

NMHFM extends condolences to the family and friends of Lew Eklund and is fortunate to have been associated with them over the past years.

A special thank you to Senator Ken Chlouber for a lively auction and to everyone who bid on items as well as pledged support to the preservation of the Matchless Mine headframe.
Gary Prazen, Founder Original Creations, Inc, 1936—2016, Honored

Through his artistry, Gary Prazen was instrumental in bringing the story of mining to life within the museum and around the world. His work will continue to play a vital role in educating the public about the miner’s important past and ongoing role in our daily lives. We are privileged and honored to have had such a longstanding relationship with not only the artist but with the humble man behind the work. The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, along with the world’s mining industry, is forever indebted to Gary Prazen’s fervent dedication to memorializing mining’s people.

John “Duff” Erickson was honored for service on the Board of Governors. Duff’s association with the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum began when he was asked by Robert “Bob” Reeder, who was our Executive Director from 1986 to 1989, to join a group of mining people working to create a National Mining Hall of Fame. Early on Duff became involved in the search for a home for the museum, which culminated in acquisition of the former Leadville, Colorado High School Building that is our home today.

For over 30 years Duff continued as an active member of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, first as a member of the Board of Directors, then as a member of the Board of Governors. He also served on the Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award selection committee. Duff retired from the Board of Governors late in 2016.

Tom Falkie, former Chair of the Board of Governors describes Duff as, “A quiet, behind the scenes guy who got things done.”

The presentation “Space: The Next Frontier of Mining” by Dr. Joel Sercel was a success! He was an enthusiastic speaker who prompted some great questions from the audience about asteroid mining, space tourism, and humankind’s potential to be a space-dwelling species. Despite the other activities offered throughout Leadville that same day, about 30 people joined us to explore this exciting topic. Thanks to all who came out!

Our next program will be the “Mining Goes to the Movies” film series in partnership with Colorado Mountain College (CMC). Beginning Friday, October 13, we will be viewing eight mining-related movies with a local expert moderating a brief discussion at the conclusion of each film. This is a CMC Community Education Course. A single $10 fee will cover the cost of the course, and you can attend one film or all eight. Movie selections include Pale Rider, North Country, Thunderheart, and October Sky. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the Moolick Library at the NMHFM every Friday for eight weeks for some great films and lively discussions!

Have any ideas for programs you want to see at the NMHFM? Lectures about a particular topic? Workshops or classes about a particular mineral or product? Any authors you want to hear discuss their mining-related book? Let me know! I am happy to talk with you about your ideas or reach out to contacts you may have. You can email me at Margareti@mininghalloffame.org.

Educator’s Corner:

Happy Autumn! We have been incredibly busy this fall with school groups visiting the NMHFM and the Matchless Mine. In the month of September alone we had 465 students visit! Several senior bus tours came from the Midwest and Southwest, and a specialized group of geologists explored our sites. It has been a great year for group visits so far and we anticipate scheduling more field trips in the coming months.

Our team is continuing to work with the Girl Scouts of Colorado to develop curriculum or programs for scouts to earn badges. Development of specialized scavenger hunts is underway for the Boy Scouts to earn their Mining in Society badge and possibly the Geology badge during a visit to the museum.

We are exploring additional ways to enhance the Scout experience and identify other opportunities and resources the NMHFM can provide during their visits.

Margaret Spiegel

Guest Lisa Parker examines The Stress Set bronze

Boy Scouts of America Mining in Society Merit Badge presentation by Frank McAllister NMHFM, Board Chair

Boy Scouts of America Chief Mike Surbaugh accepting the Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award

The High Grade
“Space: The Next Frontier in Mining” Wows Audience

“Psychology and cowardice are the only limitations.” Dr. Joel Sercel, founder and CEO of TransAstra and former NASA scientist, addressed an inquisitive crowd at the Lake County High School Auditorium on Friday, September 29. Dr. Sercel led the audience through his and TransAstra’s vision to mine asteroids for water, a key ingredient for rocket fuel, in order to create “space gas stations.” Sercel is working closely with his colleagues at the Colorado School of Mines to test his patent-pending technology Optical Mining to achieve this goal. With Optical Mining, a “Honey Bee” vehicle will gather asteroids, surround them with a large plastic bag, and use focused solar power to mine the water by spall- ing. Once explorers have the capability to fuel their spacecraft in space, the potential for further missions increases exponentially.

Sercel’s vision also includes space tourism and eventual colonization. Because the new space industry consists of public-private partnerships, passionate entrepreneurs have the opportunity to invest in the necessary technology, lowering the cost fronted by government organizations like NASA or the US Air Force. As costs are reduced, interested billionaires can purchase space vacation packages, further reducing the cost until the average person can afford their own space vacation (Sercel speculates this capability in 20-30 years). From there, humans would have the cost-effective means to develop their own habitats to colonize space. Who knows what the future holds? Sercel is optimistic and excited about the potential for the new space age.

Following his presentation was a lively question and answer session. Many participants, including inquisitive youngsters, were interested in the logistics of traveling to and living in space. It was a fascinating talk and we cannot thank Dr. Sercel enough for taking the time to visit Leadville. We look forward to further collaboration with him in the future!

Dr. Sercel holds a PhD from California Institute of Technology in Mechanical Engineering with his doctoral dissertation in plasma physics as applied to space propulsion. He has spent decades in the private and public sectors developing technology and products in fields ranging from aerospace and defense to software and robotics. He spent 14 years in NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab before founding his private company TransAstra. Dr. Sercel led the conception and definition of the NSTAR ion propulsion system currently used on the Dawn spacecraft orbiting the asteroid Ceres.

To learn more about Dr. Sercel and TransAstra, check out the company’s website at: [http://www.transastracorp.com/](http://www.transastracorp.com/).
Call for Nominations to the National Mining Hall of Fame

Telling the story of mining, its people, and its importance to the American public, the federally chartered National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum is seeking inductee and Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award nominations for the Class of 2018 honorees.

The National Mining Hall of Fame (NMHF) is home to 240 inductees whose work in the industry have significantly advanced America’s quality of life through their contributions in areas such as business acumen, ore body discovery, education, workplace safety, technological innovation, environmental stewardship, reclamation, social justice/corporate responsibility, and governmental policy. If you have knowledge of an individual who has had a significant and lasting impact on the industry, please visit https://www.mininghalloffame.org/sites/default/files/user-files/mhfadmin/HOF%20Procedures%20New.pdf for mandatory qualifications and instructions on how to nominate.

Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award

Along with inductions to the NMHF, The Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award is presented annually to an entity (individual, foundation, museum, corporation, or other entity) that has demonstrated a continuing commitment and successful efforts to educate the public on the importance of the minerals and mining industry to the American public. The award recognizes ongoing, innovative work educating the general public, lawmakers, students, educators, and other audiences about the importance of the mineral and mining industry to our everyday lives. To submit a nomination for the Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award, send a cover letter and supporting documents (brochures, photos, website info, etc.) to Jackie Dorr, NMHF Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award Committee Co-Chair via email to dorr@smenet.org. All nominations are due December 31st, 2017.

From the Curator

Buried Sunlights: Coal Mining in America

After opening in June, the newly renovated coal exhibit Buried Sunlight: Coal Mining in America has continued to prove engaging for our visitors. The exhibit touchstones on themes of historic coal mining, modern coal mining, as well as health and safety by talking about these themes, displaying photographs, and exhibiting a few coal mining artifacts from the collection. One of the highlighted pieces from the collection on display here is Johnnie Jones’s collar.

There are two opportunities for visitors to participate in this exhibit. The first asks if you could imagine what you would do with a reclaimed mine site and draw your idea. Reclamation is the final phase in the life of a mine. It is the phase when the mine owners must return the site to what it looked like before it was mined. In the photo to the left are some of the drawings people have left over the summer. It is really fun to see how kids and adults offer ideas for reclamation using what they’ve learned from the exhibit, but also incorporating what they already know about our other sources of energy.

The second opportunity is the chalkboard. As you can see, it is very popular with all ages. The question posed here is asking what is being heard on the headphones at the listening station to the right. This station has a playlist of coal mining songs. The playlist offers songs from artists such as Loretta Lynn, George Sizemore, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Orrville J. Jenkins, and Sam Johnson. These songs offer “the life of the coal miner” through a few different perspectives.

Matchless, continued from page 1

that could not be saved, including both of the 8”-by-8” diagonal legs (11’4” long) and the bottom of one vertical leg, were replaced with newly milled wood from the same tree species. Concrete pads were poured to support the diagonal and vertical legs, and the bottoms of the legs were treated with tar and borate.

Major funding for the project came in the form of a $13,500 challenge grant from the Climax-Area Community Investment Fund of the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. The El Pomar Foundation awarded an $11,000 grant and The Leadville Trail 100 Legacy Foundation provided a $2,500 grant. Former Senator Ken Chlouber encouraged bids that finally matched the Freeport challenge during an exciting live auction at the 30th Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet. Private donations through ColoradoGives.org and money dropped into receptacles placed near visitor traffic also helped to make the project possible. Finally, Leadville’s Periodic Brewery has promised to donate $1 from each pint sold to the mine on Matchless Mine Mondays during October and November.

Thank you to our supporters for helping the Matchless Mine Headframe good for another 100 years.

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Freeport-McMoran Foundation
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George E. Lensch Biography

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Shungite Heart $15.00
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George E. Lensch Biography
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Dr. Sercel holds a PhD from California Institute of Technology in Mechanical Engineering with his doctoral dissertation in plasma physics as applied to space propulsion. He has spent decades in the private and public sectors developing technology and products in fields ranging from aerospace and defense to software and robotics. He spent 14 years in NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab before founding his private company TransAstra. Dr. Sercel led the conception and definition of the NSTAR ion propulsion system currently used on the Dawn spacecraft orbiting the asteroid Ceres.

To learn more about Dr. Sercel and TransAstra, check out the company’s website at: http://www.transastracorp.com/
Gary Prazen, Founder Original Creations, Inc, 1936—2016, Honored

Through his artistry, Gary Prazen was instrumental in bringing the story of mining to life within the museum and around the world. His work will continue to play a vital role in educating the public about the miner’s important past and ongoing role in our daily lives. We are privileged and honored to have had such a longstanding relationship with not only the artist but with the humble man behind the work. The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, along with the world’s mining industry, is forever indebted to Gary Prazen’s fervent dedication to memorializing mining’s people.

John “Duff” Erickson was honored for service on the Board of Governors. Duff’s association with the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum began when he was asked by Robert “Bob” Reeder, who was our Executive Director from 1986 to 1989, to join a group of mining people working to create a National Mining Hall of Fame. Early on Duff became involved in the search for a home for the museum, which culminated in acquisition of the former Leadville, Colorado High School Building that is our home today.

For over 30 years Duff continued as an active member of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, first as a member of the Board of Directors, then as a member of the Board of Governors. He also served on the Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award selection committee. Duff retired from the Board of Governors late in 2016.

Tom Falkie, former Chair of the Board of Governors describes Duff as, “A quiet, behind the scenes guy who got things done.”

The presentation “Space: The Next Frontier of Mining” by Dr. Joel Sercel was a success! He was an enthusiastic speaker who prompted some great questions from the audience about asteroid mining, space tourism, and humankind’s potential to be a space-dwelling species. Despite the other activities offered throughout Leadville that same day, about 30 people joined us to explore this exciting topic. Thanks to all who came out!

Our next program will be the “Mining Goes to the Movies” film series in partnership with Colorado Mountain College (CMC). Beginning Friday, October 13, we will be viewing eight mining-related movies with a local expert moderating a brief discussion at the conclusion of each film. This is a CMC Community Education Course. A single $10 fee will cover the cost of the course, and you can attend one film or all eight. Movie selections include Pale Rider, North Country, Thunderheart, and October Sky. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the Moolick Library at the NMHFM every Friday for eight weeks for some great films and lively discussions!

Have any ideas for programs you want to see at the NMHFM? Lectures about a particular topic? Workshops or classes about a particular mineral or product? Any authors you want to hear discuss their mining-related book? Let me know! I am happy to talk with you about your ideas or reach out to contacts you may have. You can email me at Marga-ret@mininghalloffame.org.

Margaret Spiegel

Educator’s Corner:

Happy Autumn! We have been incredibly busy this fall with school groups visiting the NMHFM and the Matchless Mine. In the month of September alone we had 465 students visit! Several senior bus tours came from the Midwest and Southwest, and a specialized group of geologists explored our sites. It has been a great year for group visits so far and we anticipate scheduling more field trips in the coming months.

Our team is continuing to work with the Girl Scouts of Colorado to develop curriculum or programs for scouts to earn badges. Development of specialized scavenger hunts is underway for the Boy Scouts to earn their Mining in Society badge and possibly the Geology badge during a visit to the museum.

We are exploring additional ways to enhance the Scout experience and identify other opportunities and resources the NMHFM can provide during their visits.

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In Memoriam

George E. Lensch
Oct. 5, 1925—Sept. 1, 2017
George E. Lensch, one of our founding members, passed away on September 1st, just shy of his 92nd birthday. He was a son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, farmerhand, soldier, driller, manager, president, mentor and a friend to all.

Born and raised on a farm near Westcliffe, Colorado, his tales of the early days are fascinating. After serving in Japan in WWII, he was licensed to fly a single engine airplane. George then joined Boyles Brothers as a driller and spent ten years drilling underground in the Climax Mine near Leadville, Colorado. His clear leadership skills led to promotions as Supervisor, District Manager, Operations Manager, Vice President and President. His most challenging drilling project was NORAD. After retiring, he continued to consult for Boyles for many years. He was well known and respected throughout the mining industry, and everybody liked George. He had a genuine love and respect for people, was entirely low-key, spoke softly, but had a clear idea of the right way and wrong way to handle things.

For much more information on George’s life and career, his biography entitled Farmhand to Driller to President is available in print. NMHFM is grateful for George Lensch’s foresight and support over the years, and offers our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

DONATIONS: In lieu of any contributions to the family, please send donations to The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum, P.O. Box 981, 120 W. 9th St. Leadville CO 80461

Luvern Willard Eklund
Luvern (Lew) Eklund, a 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee, died on July 17, 2017 at the age of 85 surrounded by family. He was born to Arthur and Gertrude (Engan) Eklund on January 13, 1932 on their farm near Palermo, North Dakota. In 1950 Lew went to work for a seismograph crew and this marked the career change that would alter his life forever. Starting from the ground up, Lew worked his way to driller for a seismograph drilling company with Doc Young. Then, as part of a team with Evans & Cole Drilling Company, he worked on the Garrison Dam in North Dakota.

Lew Eklund owned and managed Eklund Drilling, with the help of his wife JoAnn, from 1960-1988. Their son, Lance, bought the company in 1988, and continued to build the reputation and legacy of Eklund Drilling. Boart Longyear purchased the company in 2008. Eklund Drilling Company was committed to their clients, their employees and safety of all, and well-known for their generosity to their employees, the communities they lived in and the quality of service given to each and every client. Eklund Drilling began working for Newmont Gold Company in 1963 with Mort White. That unique strategic business union lasted over 45 years and because of the pioneering efforts from both companies, microscopic gold recovery techniques were developed which revolutionized the industry and led to the discovery and eventual recovery of gold along the Carlin Trend and other areas globally with this ground-breaking technology.

NMHFM extends condolences to the family and friends of Lew Eklund and is fortunate to have been associated with them over the past years.

A special thank you to Senator Ken Chlouber for a lively auction and to everyone who bid on items as well as pledged support to the preservation of the Matchless Mine headframe.
2017 National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet Shines

A beautiful venue, 300 guests, great drink and food, a one-of-a-kind auctioneer, and witty honorees made the 30th Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet a night to be remembered! Thank you to Gary Goldberg for serving as our host and emcee for the evening. We so appreciate everyone who attended in support of our evening’s honorees.

Francine Webber
I’d like to acknowledge our sponsors for making this gala event possible!

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John Reeves
Royal Gold

Inductee #237 Dr. Thomas V. Falkie
Inductee #238 Leonard Harris
Greg McKelvey accepting for his father, Dr. Vincent E. McKelvey, Inductee #239
Inductee #240 Gordon R. Parker

The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum Calendar of Events

Friday, October 13th      Mining Goes to the Movies!
6:00—9:00 p.m.           A weekly series in partnership with Colorado Mountain College. Cost is $10 for 1 or all 8.
Moolick Library at NMHFM, Leadville
The Mining Theme Movie Line Up Is:

October 13th: The Devil’s Miner
October 20th: Armageddon
October 27th: Gold
November 3rd: North Country
November 10th: Matewan
November 17th: October Sky
November 24th: No Movie
December 1st: Thanksgiving Holiday
December 8th: Pale Rider

Each movie night will include a discussion exploring how mining is portrayed in film.

Friday, February 9th      Wine at the Mine! Event
6:00—9:00 p.m.           National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum

Please check our website, Events tab, for more details and updates!
www.mininghalloffame.org
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 building was built in 1899 and was formerly the Leadville High School. Our museum houses 25,000 square feet of interactive and informative exhibits showcasing our collection of mining's colorful past, present and future.

Phone: 719-486-1229  
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PO Box 981  
Leadville, CO 80461  
“Tell the story about mining, its people & its importance to the American public”

Continued on page 7

Matchless Headframe Rehabilitation
Good for Another 100 Years

The Matchless Mine headframe rehabilitation was successfully completed in September. Parts of the wooden structure standing over the last remaining open shaft on the mine’s claim are probably more than 125 years old. Intense sunlight during Leadville summers and heavy snows during long winters had taken a toll on the timbers, some of which were rotten beyond repair. The historic preservation project saved what could be salvaged and replaced what could not to ensure that the structure will still be standing well into the 22nd century.

The NMFHM’s Matchless Mine is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its association with 19th-century Silver Baron Horace Tabor and his second wife, Elizabeth “Baby Doe,” makes it significant to Leadville, Colorado, and the nation’s mining history. During the winter of 2014-2015, the site’s powder magazine was rehabilitated with money from the State Historical Fund, Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, and individual contributions.

Staff and volunteers associated with HistoriCorps performed the work on the headframe during two sessions that began September 11. HistoriCorps is a nonprofit historic preservation organization based in Denver that works to save historic structures on public lands and on private land accessible to the public.

The NMFHM and HistoriCorps signed an agreement to preserve the headframe in accordance with recommendations in a 2010 Historic Structure Assessment and a 2013 Schematic Design partially funded by the State Historical Fund. HistoriCorps personnel treated timbers that could be salvaged with plastic wood and borate preservative. Timbers were preserved.

Matchless Headframe boasts some new timbers in addition to old ones which were preserved.

The High Grade

Stephen Whittington  
Executive Director

The NMHFM and HistoriCorps crew camped onsite during the two-week Matchless rehabilitation project.

Lift tops off headframe timber

Crane tops off HistoriCorps crew camped onsite during the two-week Matchless rehabilitation project.

The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum