

# SAN JUAN COURIER

Summer 2015

Silverton, San Juan County, Colorado

## Historical Society Inspires National Bipartisan Hydroelectric Legislation

By Beverly Rich

The Mayflower Mill, located approximately two miles east of Silverton, was built in 1929 and operated until 1991, making it the single longest running mill in the history of the San Juan Mountains. After it was shut down, the Mayflower Mill was donated to the San Juan County Historical Society by Sunnyside Gold Corporation. Today the Mill is a National Historic Landmark which is open for public tours. Mill visitors learn how miners were able to extract gold, silver and base metals from the local hard rock ores.

The Mill property includes an existing pipeline which flows down Arrastra Gulch and across the Animas River to supply the water treatment plant at the Mill. The water treatment plant supplies clean drinking water for the Shenandoah-Dives Mill and the small businesses located at the historic Animas Power and Water Substation which was rehabilitated by Society.

This pipeline follows the path of the ca. 1900 Mears/Wilfley (Otto Mears and Arthur Redmond Wilfley) pipeline which brought tailings down from Silver Lake to the Mears/Wilfley Mill. Remnants of the pipeline are still visible. The present pipeline was installed in 1929, but significant portions of it had been replaced by more modern materials through the years while the mill was in operation.

In addition, the Society made repairs to the bridge which brings the pipeline across the Animas River from Arrastra Gulch to the mill in 2008, when the support on the west side of the river failed at a cost of \$40,000. The project included repair of the existing intake in Arrastra Gulch in order to increase water flow, repairs to leaks in the pipeline, installation of a little powerhouse, and installation of a 8 kW micro-hydro turbine.

In order to determine the feasibility of the micro hydroelectric project, the San Juan County Historical Society submitted a grant application in October of 2008 to the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development requesting funding to com-

to complete the preliminary feasibility assessment for the project. AECOM's analysis indicated that structural repairs to the intake could provide a year-round flow of at least 1.25 CFS into the pipeline. Available excess flow and pressure would be able to support installation of an 8 kW micro-hydro turbine while still providing sufficient water to supply the water treatment plant at the Mill.

The project was developed using a design/build model with Telluride Energy as the project developer, building from Telluride Energy's experience with related projects in Ouray, Ophir, Telluride, Creede, Mancos and Snowmass. The project was built by local Silverton contractors Fullmer Construction and Silverton Electric.

The project was highly successful until we started the FERC permitting process, and we found that we had to jump through the same hoops that a new Boulder Dam would be required to do. We became the poster child in getting the only bipartisan legislation passed in the last six years in Congress.

A bill was introduced in the House called the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act. It was reintroduced to the U.S. House of Representatives January 15, 2013. The bill's main focus is to clear much of the red tape associated with permitting small hydroelectric power projects, mainly those generating less than 5-megawatts of electricity. It passed the house 422 to 0.

A bipartisan bill called the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2013 to encourage expanded hydropower production in the United States was introduced in the Senate. The bill removed licensing barriers for smaller hydropower development and would require a study on a streamlined permitting process at existing dams and pumped storage products. It passed the Senate in 2014.

The Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act created a "regulatory off-ramp" from FERC permitting requirements for non-controversial hydro projects on existing conduits such as pipelines and canals which are less



*The San Juan County Historical Society's hydroelectric plant is housed in this building near the Mayflower Mill. In case the building looks familiar, it began life as a storage building for the Society's Casey Jones and was located for many years in the area now occupied by the Mining History wing of the Jail Museum. Subsequently it was on land east of the D&SNG Silverton depot and mistaken by many tourists as the "old Silverton depot".*

than 5-megawatts. Per the language in the bill, the San Juan County Historical Society sent the first application for an exemption in the State and it was approved.

Another history-making milestone of which we were the poster child: The Colorado House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed HB14-1030, bipartisan legislation to streamline development of small hydropower in Colorado, by a vote of 62-3 on February 13, 2014. HB14-1030 streamlines state environmental review for small hydro projects without weakening or changing any underlying state environmental requirements.

The bill directs the Colorado Energy Office to facilitate project review by Colorado state agencies in a timely manner commensurate with federal agency timelines, making it possible for a project

applicant to simultaneously clear federal and state review as quickly as 60 days for non-controversial small hydro projects. HB14-1030 also streamlined the electrical inspection process by citing the National Electrical Code (NEC) standards that electricians should be guided by when installing small hydro. The electrical inspector will determine whether the installation meets the NEC standards to assure safe, quality, and code compliant installations.

Now the plant is up and running and making power which we are getting credit for every time we get our bill. Having been through this adventure, we feel that we have been a part of the history of the hydro-power industry in the San Juans by helping to make this really huge change in the law, in this, the cradle of AC power history.

### San Juan County Historical Society 2015 Summer Schedule

May 15—Old 100 Mine Tour Opening Day

May 23—Opening Day at the museum

June 8—Mayflower Mill clean-up day 9:00 a.m.

June 13—Mayflower Mill Opening Day

June 19—Night at the Museum, authors' book-signing party, 5:30 p. m.

June 20—Cemetery Workday 10:00 a.m.

June 27—Old Truck Show and Breakfast on Notorious Blair Street

September 4—Silverton Movie Festival

September 4-7—All School Reunion

September 18-20—Step Back in Time

**For additional information, please see**  
<http://www.sanjuancountyhistoricalsociety.org/>



# Chairman’s Report

Dear Members:

After one of the lightest and mildest winters that I can ever remember, we have been greeted by a very winter-y spring! As I write it is snowing heavily and we have forgotten what the sun looks like. But, at only 57% normal snowpack in the San Juans, we are grateful for any and all moisture that we get.

Well, it’s been quite a ride this year what with being on the front cover of Preservation Magazine’s spring edition to being on the PBS Evening News. The magazine story was about our work at Animas Forks and the PBS story was about our role in the legislation that was passed to ease restrictions on small hydro-power. You don’t go “National” like that very often. Right now we are getting the museum and mill ready to open for the season, and yep, I’m cleaning the jail once again.

Scott Fetchenier and Zeke Zanoni have been building the drilling exhibit, Steve Rich has done a camera and darkroom exhibit while also working on a gallery using an under-utilized part of our collection—our wonderful photos. Judy Zimmerman is making a big book order for the museum store and Jerry Hoffer is back wiring away. Believe it or not, we will be open on Memorial Day weekend! If you are around, we are having Mill Cleanup day on June 8th at 9:00 a.m. in anticipation of opening June 13th.

Through special dispensation from the Town of Silverton (no off-site advertising), we are also moving our newly restored Caboose #1005 to Greene Street lots at 11th Street, thanks to property owners Tommy and Patty Wipf. The caboose will be an attraction in downtown Silverton and it will used to promote the jail, Mining Heritage Center, Mill and Mine Tours. Some other big dates of note are Night at the Museum with a book-signing by local authors on June 19th, followed by Cemetery Workday on June 20th. Then on June 27th, we will sponsor the Blair Street Historic District Association’s old truck show and breakfast, a fund-raiser for that gritty little organization, and a fun time for all. Thanks to Casey Carroll and the museum ladies, we will have a full season of events, lectures and shows. Also, not to miss is the Silverton Standard’s Silverton Western Movie Festival on September 4th and an all new Step Back in Time on September 18-20th. Save the Dates!

We have no actual construction projects going on now, which is different, now that the new addition is done. Thanks, members, for your support for that. It is wonderful space and has allowed us to keep the momentum going on our mining museum—the best in the country. We do, however, have two other projects going—one is the development of construction documents for the coal trestle, the water tank and the interior of the Assay Office at the Mill. That way, if funding becomes available, we can be ready to start tomorrow. We also have a grant to do a Historic Structure Assessment of the Old Town Hall—the one on Blair Street. The Blair Street Historic District Association got a grant from former Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell for \$50,000 to do improvements on Blair Street and he has challenged us to leverage the funds. One of our ideas is to utilize the old Town Hall as restroom and visitor space, so this assessment will help us to set our fund-raising strategy.

We are proud to have saved the Old Hundred Boarding House, the incredible structure that sits perched on cliff high above Cunningham Gulch. What an adventure that was, using helicopters to tram in supplies and building materials for two summers. And while we were at it, we saved the tram house, too. But that was in 1998, and after a trip to the Old Hundred Boarding House last summer by several Society members, it was determined that some hefty foundation fixes need to be done on this building. Winter snow creates ice build-ups behind the building, pushing it away from the cliff’s face. With the foundation failing, it is only a matter of time before the building plunges to the bottom of the cliff. We are soliciting match money for a grant application to the State Historical Fund. We need to raise 25% and, thanks to you, have already raised over \$10,000. If you are as astounded by the Old Hundred Boarding House as we are, please consider a donation to keep this amazing building from falling apart and tumbling down the mountain.

We would like to give the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and its owner Al Harper a special welcome to our little community. They recently purchased the venerable Grand Imperial Hotel, one of our local centerpieces. If we can help in any way, Al, please ask. We are thrilled to have you here!

Good things are happening, dear members. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you this summer. And as I finish my letter, I believe I see a patch of blue sky to the south—the sun can’t be far behind!

Bev

# Archive Continues as a Very Busy Place

By Casey Carroll & Ray Dileo  
Another interesting year has passed at the Society’s Archive. We were very excited when we obtained several photographic and artifact collections this year. Leslie Stone Kuenzig, granddaughter of Roy Stone donated images of her grandfather’s. Roy and his brother, Harold, hauled mining equipment to the mines. Their business started up in Lake City and then was moved to Silverton, where they hauled to the mines of Silverton and Telluride. Roy Stone’s mother, Mary, is buried at Hillside Cemetery.

We received and scanned approximately 30 transparencies of mining from the 1950s from Izzy Nelson. We created 16" x 20" images of the transparencies for the Museum to display in the future. Two of the images were used in Donna Vessey’s PBS Show, *Rocky Mountain Adventure Quest*, which aired in February on Rocky Mountain PBS.

We also received Elliott Pickett’s collection of photos, maps and artifacts. The collection consists of images, maps, and documents of the Buffalo Boy and Vertex Mines. Elliott’s father was superintendant of the Vertex Mine before devastating fires in 1935 and 1936.

Other donations included books from Charles Arnett of Durango, Ed Mead of Hermosa, and we were given a photo album that had been stored on the East Coast from a relative of the Prosser family of Silverton. We also received a first edition, four volume book set of *History of Colorado*.

Carroll and Dileo supplied images to Mark and Karen Vendl for their new Arcadia book, *Mines around Silverton*, which will be released this September. All royalties from the book have been graciously donated to the Society by the authors. Thank you, Mark & Karen! You are awesome!

We found images and information for a person in California who had just discovered that her relatives were former longtime residents of Silverton, the Sutherland family. She was thrilled that we had so many pictures of her family.

The crew scanned and sent images to The African Attach-

ment of Cape Town, South Africa, for a video they are producing about the *Hardrock Hundred* running event. We also had requests for images from as far away as Kotzebue, Alaska. We really enjoy the interest we receive from people who are so far from Silverton.

Dileo has just finished a digital frame for the museum that will feature a slideshow of about 40 historic images. If anyone would like a copy of any of these images, let the museum host know and they will relay your request to the archive.

PayPal Buttons on the Society’s website for memberships and donations are working out quite well. And, speaking of donations, we are ecstatic that we have collected close to \$13,000 for matching funds (25%) for the Old Hundred Boardinghouse stabilization project grant that we applied for on May 1st. Thanks to all of you who love and support the Old Hundred Boardinghouse!

Speaking of the website... if you have not yet visited our website ([sanjuancountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://sanjuancountyhistoricalsociety.org)) and signed up for our newsletters, please make time to do so. You will be informed of exciting upcoming events and any other news, as it happens.

The last year or so, we have been collaborating with the Animas Museum in Durango. They have donated shelving, bookcases, used barn wood, etc. Carolyn and Susan of the Animas Museum delivered most of these items because we cannot seem to find anyone in Silverton who owns a pickup truck. Really? Really!

The Archive public computer is ready for anyone to come in and sit in a relaxed and pleasant environment and access the database of cataloged artifacts and digital photos from our historic images collection. We do charge a fee this service; however Society members receive a 10% discount.

Many of you know that Bev Rich retired in January as the longest running San Juan County Treasurer and she has set up her office on the second floor of the Archive. She may not be the County Treasurer any longer, but she will forever be our County Treasure!

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# San Juan Courier

George Chapman, Editor

Published annually by the San Juan County Historical Society, a non-profit Colorado corporation, for its members and all persons interested in the preservation of the history of San Juan County, Colorado.

**San Juan County Historical Society  
Officers and Directors, 2015**

Beverly Rich, Chairman; Scott Fetchenhier, Secretary/Treasurer; Jerry Hoffer, George Darnell Zanoni, Patty Dailey, Stephen Rich, and Bill Alsup, Directors.



# Preservation of Sound Democrat is another San Juan County Project

By David Singer

Over a hundred years after it ceased production in 1910, the Sound Democrat mill stands today with much of its original machinery intact. The US Bureau of Mines listed 36 stamp mills in the San Juan Region in a 1911 survey, and of all those structures, today only the Sound Democrat remains standing.

In the early 1990s the structure was teetering on the brink of collapse. In 1991 the National Park Service documented the mill with a Historic American Engineering Recordation project, measuring and drawing the mill structure and its machinery in precise detail. Then between 1992 and 1997, the Bureau of Land Management implemented a major stabilization effort, propping up the structure and replacing the roof, and preserving the intact batteries of stamps and crushing machinery. Without that effort, this historic mill structure would have just been another pile of lumber and rusted machinery, passed by on the 4x4 trail up Placer Gulch. However, this summer, almost 25 years since that initial documentation and stabilization, the Sound Democrat will be the subject of a comprehensive preservation project, to make critical repairs to the building envelop and foundation, and improve the interpretive signage at the site.

## Archive

*Continued from Page 2*

We would like to give a BIG THANKS to volunteer extraordinaire Judy Zimmerman for organizing the upstairs of the Archive (and for the scrumptious cookies, cakes, doughnuts and fudge she occasionally brings us). Thanks Judy! We would also like to thank Life Member, Harry McGavran of Los Alamos, New Mexico, for his never ending computer support. We would like anyone who is “on the fence” about donating a collection they might have to know that we can scan images for you and put them on CD for your family to have. This way, your little or large collection of Silverton history will forever reside in a temperature and humidity controlled environment for future generations to enjoy. We are seeking pictures or artifacts from any decade, but there is growing interest of the 1950s through the 1980s. We definitely need items from these decades, so any item or items you would like to donate will be welcomed.

In ending, if you are in the neighborhood, you are invited to stop by the Archive any Thursday and see what we are up to!

Again, thank you for your support!

Working in partnership with the Mountain Studies Institute, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and their Field Archaeologist, Bruce Bourcy, the Sound Democrat was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and was awarded a grant for the preservation of the building from the State Historical Fund. The total project budget is estimated at \$216,000. A detailed set of plans and specifications will first be developed to flesh out the required scope of work, and then implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015. Before the heavy snows of winter close off access to the site, which is well above Animas Forks, the building will be sealed up, and the drainage around the structure improved to protect and prepare the site for a season of restoration work in 2016. During the winter months, replica doors, windows, flooring and siding will be crafted off site, and new interpretive panels will be designed and fabricated.

### History and Operation

J.B Ezell of Pine Bluff, Arkansas and local partner J.W. Walker of Eureka, purchased the Sound Democrat mine on September 23, 1905 for \$20,000. The mine included approximately 800 feet of tunnels at the time of purchase. Walker was employed as the Mine Manger and was charged with the development of the mine and construction of the mill and tramway. Ezell incorporated the business soon after the purchase, and the mill was constructed between 1905 and 1906 by the Arkansas Mining and Tunnel Company, as a small prospect type amalgamation and concentration stamp mill. The estimated capacity of the mill in its original configuration was approximately 20 tons.

Ore entered the mill via an aerial tramway and down a chute into a “Samson” jaw crusher, which broke the ore down to a three-inch feed size and was dropped into an ore bin below. Mechanical feeders moved the ore from the bin to a battery of stamps where the ore was reduced to a fine sand. The pulverized ore then passed through a set of screens at the base of the stamps and washed across amalgamation plate tables. A thin film of mercury on the plates captured the “free gold”, producing an amalgam that was scrapped off weekly. The mercury was then vaporized out of the amalgam in a retort kiln in an assay office, leaving the refined gold to be captured. The remaining pulverized ore was then washed onto the concentration tables where the waste rock slurry flowed across the table’s surface. The thin riffle bars on the table caught the heavier silver, lead and zinc sulfides while the lighter



*The Sound Democrat as it appeared in the summer of 2014.*



*The Sound Democrat as it appeared before the 1990s stabilization work.*

waste materials washed into a chute and were channeled out to the tailings pile down slope from the mill. The concentrate was then bagged and shipped to the smelter for concentration.

The Panic of 1907 crippled the mining industry in the west and the metal markets for copper and lead collapsed causing western smelters to stop purchasing ores, and the Sound Democrat fell silent for two years. Then in 1909, the Durango smelter’s announcement that they would resume the purchase of lead ores and concentrates, inspired new interest in the Sound Democrat’s production. The person responsible for rekindling and remodeling the Sound-Democrat was Joe Terry. Terry revamped and boosted the production of the mill with the addition of a battery of four Nissen stamps, adjacent to the original three-stamp battery, and added a 6th Level which housed two additional sixteen-foot concentration tables. Joe Terry was the son of one of Colorado’s foremost mining men John Terry, who managed the Sunnyside Mill, one of the biggest gold producers in the San Juan Mountains. After his father’s death, Joe assumed the management of the Sunnyside Mill with its hundred-stamp battery, leaving the Sound Democrat.

The Sound Democrat produced an estimated \$20,000 in concentrate in its short, sporadic

operation. Today however, the “Gold and Silver” remaining at the Sound Democrat lies in its capacity to transport us back in time where we can imagine the daunting experience of those hearty few miners who came to prospect the San Juan for riches never found. Those experiences are invaluable!

The BLM’s continued decades-long stewardship of the property should be lauded, as the site is the last of its kind in the San Juan. Preserving and interpreting the broad landscape of our mining heritage is paramount to our tourism industry here in the remote corners of Southwestern Colorado. Preserving places like these for people to come and explore is inextricably linked to our community’s economic survival. So, this year, stay a few extra nights in Silverton, and make the journey past Animas Forks and explore the Sound Democrat!

*David Singer is the Principle Investigator for Silverton Restoration Consulting. His company researches and develops construction documents for these types of projects, and manages their restoration. Recent projects include the Ghost Town of Animas Forks, San Juan County’s 1903 Jail, the Mayflower Mill, and Silverton’s Miner’s Union Hospital.*

**Support the San Juan County  
Historical Society  
Become a member.**

**Details may be found at :  
sanjuancountyhistoricalsociety.org**



# Silverton Northern Project Plans Explained

By Fritz Klinke

We have had an active group of volunteers in Silverton working on the Silverton Northern project this past year toward several goals. One of the more significant events was a successful fund raising effort through the Main Street Crowd Funding web site. This effort raised several thousand dollars. We are very appreciative of the many people, both society members, and others, who joined in this effort.

We were pleased to receive a \$3300 grant for economic development from San Miguel Power Association last summer that has been applied towards the cost of track material.

A new logo was developed for the Silverton Northern. Our first use of the logo has been on a successful line of hats that are being used both as rewards for donations and for sale to raise additional funds. The latest order of 100 hats has just been received and we will be sending out a number of hats still due to our contributors.

A significant project is what we call the Silverton Northern Demonstration Track. This short piece of track will be 300 feet long and is being built on Society owned property just east of the power house. We purchased used railroad ties, new spikes and track

material, and hauled over Red Mountain Pass 600 feet of rail that was generously donated by the Ridgway Railroad Museum. A very significant amount of fill material on site has been leveled and the road bed work has started.

Another project is the moving of the restored Silverton Northern Caboose 1005 from the engine house to a location at the corner of 11th Street and Greene Street, on property owned by the Wipfs. We will be using the caboose to promote the museum complex, the Sunnyside Mill, and the Old 100 Mine tour, and very importantly, the Silverton Northern rebuilding effort.

We laid a short piece of track at this location in May which has been ballasted and has the correct appearance. No commercial businesses will be promoted. Members of the SN committee will volunteer time when possible to staff the caboose and hand out museum brochures.

One very successful fund raising event last summer was offering rides in the Casey Jones on two separate weekends. We had about 700 feet of track at the engine house on which to operate the Casey. We were very pleased with the number of people who took the opportunity to take a ride. The Casey will be pressed into service again this summer as a fund raiser.

# Museum Staff gets More “Stuff” and Improves Public’s Viewing

By Stephen F. Rich

In mid-October of 2014 several museum staff members and volunteers traveled to Colorado Springs on a mission to acquire artifacts from the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. We had previously tagged the artifacts chosen from their surplus inventory. They needed to downsize so they could acquire a new storage facility, as a highway was being constructed through the site. Like kids in a candy store we loaded our treasures into pick-ups and on volunteer Tony Vowels’ flatbed trailer. A steam hoist weighing about 2500 lbs, vertical steam engine, a steam powered compressor, a large (3500lbs) horizontal steam engine with a 36" x 8" fly-wheel and a “hit-and-miss” engine. All machines have been restored and will actually work.

Most of the larger mines in the San Juans used steam to power their operations until electric power from the grid was available. In addition we acquired a 6' wooden Bull wheel in nearly perfect condition, numerous hand forged blacksmith tools, and a large rack to contain them. We also were given about forty feet of nearly new heavy duty steel shelving, something we really needed. To load these heavy machines we rented a local heavy duty forklift,

which was delivered to the site. All and all it was a truly productive excursion to the big city and yet we were all glad to get back to the quiet slow paced life here in Silverton, just before the snow fell. Most of the new acquisitions are on display and in an ongoing effort interpretive information is being produced. The group from Silverton was comprised of Stephen Rich, David Zanoni, Jerry Hoffer, and Tony Vowels. Our associate and member Lowell Ross, from Woodland Park, Colorado was much help in coordinating the forklift rental and other logistics before and during the move. A sincere thank you goes out to Dr. Richard Sauers, executive director of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry.

One of the most satisfying aspects of museum work is the design and creation of museum exhibits. Each year the exhibit staff produces new additions to our already awesome museum. This year is no exception. Zeke Zanoni has completed a large interpretive exhibit on pneumatic drills used for mining in the San Juans. Much machinery is displayed with interpretive labels and numerous historic photographs showing similar machines in actual use. Rich, Scott Fetchenier and Zanoni constructed yet an-

# Durango Railroad Historical Society Rebuilds cars, Partners with San Juan on Silverton Railroad Historical Park

By George Niederauer

In February 2015 the Durango Railroad Historical Society was awarded a grant of \$84,799 from the Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF). This grant supports acquiring and restoring several narrow gauge cars and creating interpretive signs about the cars and about “Trails to Rails”. These cars once served the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. With these funds the Society bought two freight cars (a double-deck stock car and a flatcar) and three work cars (a bunk car; a tool car; and a flanger, used to clear snow and ice from tracks). Over the next two years the Society will restore four cars and produce an interpretive sign for each one: double-deck stock car, single-deck stock car, bunk car, and flanger.

This acquisition and restoration project, as well as other projects, will increase preservation and help inform the public about the importance of narrow gauge railroads that were so crucial to the development of southwest Colorado. Progress on restoring the cars can be followed at the website [www.drhs315.org](http://www.drhs315.org) and via Facebook. This project requires matching cash of \$28,266. Donations for this and other projects can be sent to the Durango Railroad Historical Society, P. O. Box 654, Durango, CO 81302 or via PayPal on its website.

Another rail car project began this spring: restoring a refrigerator car (reefer). Long ago the Society gave up trying to find a reefer, especially a 30 foot long short version. Last fall it came to the attention of Duane Danielson that some such cars existed in the San Luis Valley. Several reefer bodies were found that had been sitting directly on the ground for decades, so their sills had rotted, and the bodies had generally deteriorated from lack of maintenance. Then a pair of bodies was found sitting on blocks with a

roof over them; they had formed two walls of a storage building. The Society bought the two reefer bodies this spring. One is undergoing the first phase of restoration: getting a set of trucks under it. The other will be used for storage next to the engine house in Silverton.

The Society now has eleven cars that will be displayed, when restored, in the Silverton Railroad Historical Park. It has already restored a high-side gondola and a drop-bottom gondola. In 2014 the Society bought a boxcar and a single-deck stock and acquired the tank for a wood-frame tank car. The Society is still looking for a caboose (short one preferred).

In a joint project with the San Juan County Historical Society, they began to restore the 1912 Silverton Northern engine house in Silverton to store Locomotive 315 and to support its maintenance and the restoration of railcars by both societies. They also reconstructed three blocks of Silverton Northern track for displaying restored railcars. The State Historical Fund has supported all these projects. This summer the San Juan County Historical Society plans to reconstruct the Silverton Northern oil shed, which sits next to the engine house, and use it as an office and break room for volunteers working on various projects.

The Durango Railroad Historical Society will not be running the Locomotive 315 this year because it is too busy on the rail car and Emma Sweeny projects. Emma Sweeny is the full-size model locomotive that was used in the 1950 movie *A Ticket to Tomahawk*, which was filmed in Silverton, on Molas Pass, and in Durango. This movie, and others of the period, helped save the Silverton Branch of the D&RGW by attracting more tourists to ride the train.

other full scale cutaway of a mine tunnel heading with an ore car. More concrete work forming the tunnel and hundreds more fake rocks!

Hofer has installed over fifty feet of overhead track lighting throughout the museum and is presently upgrading numerous case lights to new LED fixtures. We should see some energy savings in the future.

In our recently completed new addition Fetchenier and Rich constructed a small gallery space to exhibit thirty or more enlarged historic photographs of Silverton and the San Juans. Several new additions to our camera collection and a darkroom complete with trays and an enlarger, beakers,

chemistry and paper has been produced. Interpretive labels, a viewing window and a push button (inter-active) control turns off the safe lights and powers up the enlarger demonstrating this now vintage process for producing photographs. Our patrons will depart the darkroom and photo exhibit with new understanding as to how the wonderful historic photographs in our collection came to be.

A new eight foot lighted secure display case for the mineral room was built to replace a smaller case. This case will hold a new and extensive collection of minerals from a local donor, the name to be released upon the exhibit’s completion.