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Victor's Strong Mine Showcases Mining History Event

Victor's historic Strong Mine and hard rock mining will be the center of attention on Saturday, Oct. 5. Stories at the Strong: A Day of Tall Tales & Mining History will be held at the 1899 mine site. The event is sponsored by the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. This is the fourth year for the event.

The day will begin at 11 a.m. with check in at the gate.

The day will feature a chance to see the surface plant and hoist house of the Strong Mine. Two Mile High Mining Company owner Jim Watson will provide a historical presentation. Folks will also get a chance to see the Strong Mine's hoist operate and visit the hoist house.

During the storytelling some of the mining district's well-seasoned miners and long-time residents will conjure up memories and weave tales about their experiences and the old days.

The Victor Elks will cook and sell hotdogs burgers, and brats on the grill. The proceeds from the lunch go the Elks Lodge.

The cost of the event, benefiting the museum, is \$10 per person with children under 5 free. The entrance fee includes all of the day's events and entry into the drawing; the Elks lunch is an additional charge.

Tickets can be reserved on line at VictorMuseum.com or purchased at the museum or at the gate the day of the event by cash only.

The Strong Mine is located just off Diamond Avenue on Victor's north side. Parking is limited at the Battle Mountain and Independence Mill Site Trailhead on the Old American Eagles Road with a walk to the mine site. Attendees are encouraged to park in downtown Victor. A free shuttle sponsored by Newmont Mining Corporation will provide transportation to and from the mine site and the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum throughout the day.

Wrapped in tall and grave tales of its own, the Strong Mine is a perfect location for mining history lore. The mine was blown up in the 1894 labor strike, rebuilt and then operated as a wealthy mine for years. In recent years the mine suffered from weathering and the Watson family has restored the headframe and other structures.

The most famous story about the Strong Mine has to do with its founder. The mine's 1890's owner, Sam Strong, was killed in an argument in the Newport Saloon in Cripple Creek in 1901, his shooting the result of an argument over gambling. As a result of the incident, the mayor at the time outlawed guns and gambling in Cripple Creek. In the August 23 issue of the *Colorado Springs Evening Mail*, Mayor Crane ran a decree on the front page. He publicly denounced Strong and all other gamblers for the common practice of carrying concealed weapons, saying: 'I believe that in a community so well governed as Cripple Creek, where warrants are worth 100 cents on the dollar, any person who carries a gun or other dangerous weapon concealed on his person is either a coward, a bully or an outlaw.' Crane ordered that all gambling houses in Cripple Creek be closed and that 'all persons carrying concealed weapons quit said practice.'

Don't miss more tall tales, true history, and Stories at the Strong on Oct. 5.

For more information, visit VictorMuseum.com, email info@victormuseum.com or call 719-689-5509.