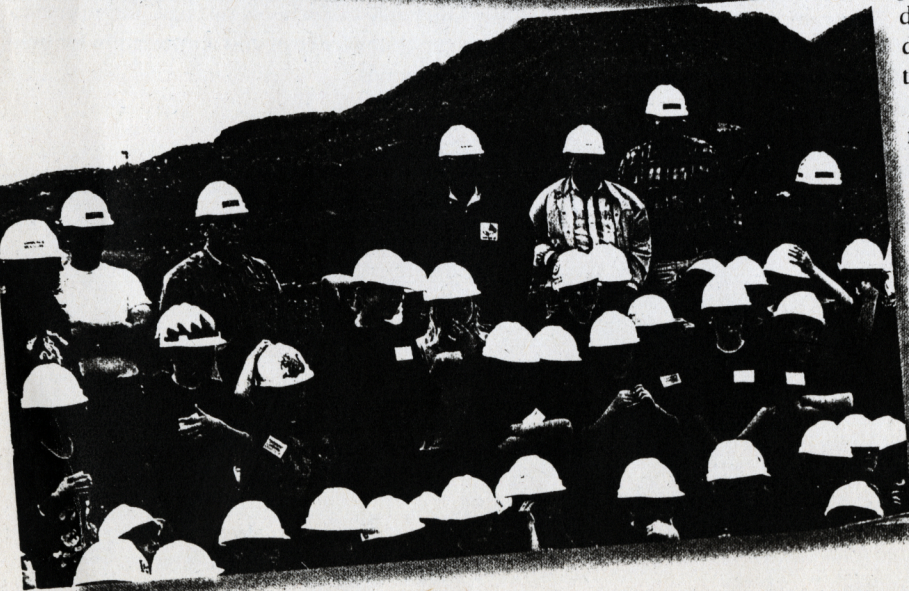


Word on the Street

The "School of Mines" has already attracted extensive public and media attention and will continue to educate both children and adults about mining. Fact sheets distributed to the press included the information that mining is the second-largest industry in Nevada, supporting more than 13,000 jobs through direct employment and another 47,610 jobs through indirect employment.

One press report described the exciting student project and noted that the school had even found an out-of-state mining company to develop CD-ROMs specifically for the project. "The programs will provide information about mining to students and adults visiting the structure," explained Henderson's *Green Valley View*.

A *Las Vegas Review-Journal* article featured a picture of McCaw students in hard hats and mining lights conducting a tour of the replica mine. It called the huge mine replica a "\$1 million bonanza . . . built from dreams and donations." It also emphasized the educational function, quoting a teacher at the dedication: "[Students will] enter this one-



- ◆ 4,500 square feet of hands-on mining education.
- ◆ Five instructional rooms stimulating interest in the history and importance of mining in Nevada today.
- ◆ Simulated open pit mine, man cage and tunnel.
- ◆ An outside recirculating sluice allowing students to pan for real gold.
- ◆ Field trip destination for some 300 students per day.
- ◆ Plans to expand "hands-on experience" rooms.

Located on the McCaw Elementary School grounds, the project cost \$1 million, all of which was privately funded via time, materials or cash. Thousands of volunteered hours built the mine. Architect: Tate & Snyder Architects.

of-a-kind facility, and they'll remember its lessons because it's not a book or a video. It's a mining experience."

There are five interactive educational rooms located inside the mine. Special displays in these rooms will change on a regular basis in order to provide new information for the school tours. In addition to the five rooms, there is a simulation of an open pit mining operation, a man cage and "underground" mining tunnels.

In praising the educational opportunity, Nevada Mining Association's Mike Doyle said, "Most people don't realize mined materials are used to make products we use every day such as telephones, computers, windshields and airbags. McCaw School of Mines provides a unique opportunity for children to learn how mining affects our lives."

John Ellis, CEO of Independence Mining Company, agreed, telling the crowd at the dedication, "Students of southern Nevada are going to get an education, and these students will teach them!"

As great an experience as the building of the mine has been, the students aren't going to rest on their laurels. Besides being tour guides and educators to other area students, they'll be adding to the hands-on exhibits in an ongoing educational experience for themselves, their teachers and their community. ◆

Carol Sheppard is director, education and communications, for the National Mining Association.

TOP: MCCAW STUDENTS HAD A READY ANSWER TO GOV. MILLER'S QUESTION AT THEIR MINE'S DEDICATION: "WHAT IS NEVADA'S NICKNAME?" THE ANSWER: THE SILVER STATE.

BOTTOM: EARLY INSPIRATION TO BUILD THEIR OWN MINE CAME WHEN MCCAW STUDENTS VISITED MOLYCORP'S MOUNTAIN PASS MINE IN CALIFORNIA.