

and most thoroughly researched one available for this subject, and in a very readable and interesting format.

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Sally Zanjani. *The Glory Days in Goldfield, Nevada*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2002; 176 pp., photos, illus., cloth, \$31.95.

With the 2002 release of *The Glory Days in Goldfield, Nevada*, Sally Zanjani offers another in a long line of remarkable books. This volume is a richly illustrated centennial celebration of the initial strike in 1902. The ensuing rush founded Goldfield in central Nevada. Besides drawing on nearly two hundred photographs and drawings, the author employs a wide range of primary source material to offer access to voices long since silenced.

Zanjani's earlier, definitive treatment of Nevada's turn-of-the-century capital of mining, *Goldfield*, employed the subtitle "The Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier." Indeed this boomtown was the last of its kind, and Goldfield is unique, both in the degree of its wealth and in its ability to define the end of an era. Given this, historians are justified to examine and re-examine Goldfield from any number of perspectives. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to ask why Zanjani returned to this subject, given the expert, thorough way she handled it in her 1992 treatise.

First of all, as the daughter of an early Goldfield resident, Zanjani has access to many images and can easily put her hands on a variety of primary sources. She puts these to good use as she unfolds this story. *Glory Days* does not have the depth of detail and analysis of her earlier treatment of Goldfield, but this new contribution offers a perspective that is most welcome. It also serves as a quick introduction to the topic, with sufficient visuals to offer a vivid impression of the turn-of-the-century mining

camp.

Zanjani offers successive chapters on the founding of Goldfield, the mines, and the nature of the community, including its family life and forms of entertainment. No treatment of Goldfield would be complete without a discussion of its labor unrest and controversies, and the author, no stranger to the topic, delivers. Finally, Zanjani's treatment concludes with the slump of the camp's mines, economy, and population. Today, Goldfield is a pale shadow of its former self. Exhausted mines, fires, and floods left only a reflection of a place that was once Nevada's biggest city. Neglect and a harsh environment completed the story of a great place's degradation. With this final chapter, Zanjani documents the inevitable end of a western mining boomtown's life cycle.

Goldfield is an extremely important community that warrants this and more attention. Its startling wealth attracted fortune seekers the same way the California Gold Rush had more than fifty years earlier. This opportunity to see a gallery of images and to read a wide assortment of period texts gives the reader the chance to know this place a little better.

Perhaps aware that a second book on Goldfield in ten years begged the question of need, Zanjani offers a defense of the undertaking in her preface. Her assertion that she "had more to say about Goldfield than could be fitted into a single book," may be the weakest point of the publication. There is a better justification that she understandably could not have written. The fact is that we need every book this author can give to us. Each of her publications is a gem and our community of mining and western historians grows richer every time she mines an ore body. If Sally Zanjani were to write yet another book on Goldfield, she would make a success of it, so she is only to be encouraged to proceed with her writing, whatever the topic. And we will look forward to the next time she delights her grateful readers.

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