150. Many of these are interesting and rare phosphate minerals, several of them being unique to Palermo. Whether one does or does not have an appreciation for mineral specimens and mineralogy, Frederick C. Wilda's illustrations are most impressive. The book contains over one hundred pages of beautiful watercolors of mineral specimens from the locality. Arranged alphabetically by species name, these illustrations bring out subtle detail and shading of minerals of various size, color, form, and habit that would not be evident in standard mineral photography. A brief section features large color photographs of some faceted gemstones and gem carvings that have been crafted from Palermo's golden, green, and aquamarine beryls and smoky and clear quartz crystals.

This publication lacks a meaningful index map to relate the site's location to the little village of North Groton, New Hampshire. A standard U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangle map or regional geology map of the White Mountains with the site noted would have been fine. It is as if the authors were trying to keep the locality hidden while promoting its accessibility to mineral collecting clubs. Or maybe it was just an oversight. The book does include a recent site map, in addition to a World War II era plane table and tape and compass surveys in the back. Including a late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century atlas map near the beginning of the book would have made a fine locator map with some historical significance.

Readers interested in geology will find limited information regarding theories of pegmatite formation and about this particular deposit, but the book does describe pegmatite zoning with illustrated cross-sections. Moreover, the mineral descriptions also give many details of their occurrence and in which Palermo mine they have been found. Mines Nos. 1 and 2 are the largest openings, with shafts and sizeable underground workings. Other pits and trenches, numbered up to 16, are also found on the southeast flank of Baldhead Mountain about one-and-a-quarter miles southwest of North Groton.

The book does provide references and an index to assist in finding topics and minerals. A time-line covering 140 years of site history versus some illustrated national and world events is also interesting. Frederick Wilda provided very nice historic drawings on the inside cover, and other artwork. These fit nicely into the subject of recording mining history through artwork that has been of recent interest in the Mining History Association. *The Pegmatite Mines Known as Palermo* is visually pleasing and an enjoyable read.

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Fritz Wolff. ***A Room for the Summer, Adventure, Misadventure, and Seduction in the Mines of the Coeur d'Alene.*** Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004; 264 pp., cloth, $29.95. ISBN: 0806136588

Robert Lenon with Robert and Judith Whitcomb. ***It Seems Like Only Yesterday: Mining and Mapping in Arizona's First Century. Vo1. 1: The Yuma Years, and Vol 2.: Bisbee and Patagonia***. New York: iUniverse, Inc., 2004 and 2005, vol. 1, 178 pp., vol. 2, 211 pp., paper, $17.95 and $18.95. ISBN: 0595361498

Teresa Williams Irvin. ***Let the Tail Go With the Hide: The Story of Ben F. Williams***. Bloomington, Indiana: Unlimited Publishing, 2001, 288 pp., paper, $15.99. ISBN: 1588320227

The history of mining in the twentieth-century West has yet to be written, but these three volumes provide a good start for anyone interested in three original characters and twentieth century mining, especially during the 1930s-60s. I enjoy individual reminiscences more than any other type of book and Wolff, Williams, and Lenon stand out as among the best of miners' published accounts.

Many MHA members know Fritz Wolff from meetings and discussions, such as the tours during

the Wallace, Idaho, conference. In *A Room for the Summer* he tells all, maybe too much, about being a young miner learning the trade during summers in the Bunker Hill—"Mother Bunker"—while spending the rest of the year at New Mexico Tech. Wolff arrived in June 1956, and explains how a good mentor underground saved him from blowing up himself and possibly others. He does this with wit and with empathy for the tough guys who spent their lives underground. His detailed description of learning to drill, blast, muck, and tram is an excellent introduction for those who have never lifted a jackleg or a tamping pole, or crammed primers and powder.

Wolff fills his pages with antics and characters in the Coeur d'Alene district, and experiences and opinions on many topics, from middle managers to prostitution. An engineering student had certain perks, such as being bar tender at the social functions in the manager's house, an entre to meeting higher-ups. Wolff used those contacts to return to Kellogg after graduation, where the book ends with the tenderfoot miner now an experienced hand.

While Wolff provides great and good detail about the mining game underground during four summers, in *It Seems Like Only Yesterday*, Robert Lenon recounts his long career in the mining industry from the 1920s to the 1970s. Lenon is best known to mining historians as the collaborator with Otis Young on the classic *Western Mining* (Oklahoma, 1970). In his current two-volume reminiscence he abundantly shows where his knowledge of the intricacies of mining came from: tough hands-on work. He grew up around prospectors in Yuma, Arizona, and maintains his interest in mines into his nineties in his home in Patagonia, Arizona.

His best chapters are those about his early work in gold, copper, and tungsten mining. In the Yuma area he worked gold claims at the old, nearly ghost camps with their hangers-on waiting for a revival. After graduating from the University of Arizona's mining school, Lenon went to work for Calumet and Arizona in Bisbee, just before its merger with Phelps Dodge. (Lenon calls it the sub-merger, since PD staff had priority for jobs as the Depression worsened.) Lenon recounts his operation of a gold mine, of a tungsten property in the Huachuca Mountains, and his ability as a map maker (some of his work ended up in the miner's bible, Robert Peele's mining engineer's handbook).

Lenon's reminiscence is in sharp contrast to Wolff's, since he covers a career and Wolff only a few seasons. Where Wolff gives depth of detail, Lenon provides breadth, the roller coaster ride of trying to make a living extracting metal from the earth over the decades. Lenon has much to say about money markets, local boosters, and corporate antics. He preferred to work on his own, and, after World War II, settled into a consulting business in Patagonia, while occasionally taking a flyer on some old prospect. Since this is a reminiscence of major events in his life, half of Lenon's text deals with non-mining activities—the people of Yuma where he grew up, and of Patagonia where he spent most of his life, his experiences in World War II, and his personal love of maps. But, to this reviewer, the best chapters are about mining practices, mining people, and mining places.

Benjamin Franklin Williams mined in Mexico and in the Southwest. Late in life his daughter tape recorded his reminiscences, then shaped them into *Let the Tail Go With the Hide*, first printed for the family in 1984, and now available at a print-on-demand press. Williams was not a miner, he was a wildcat speculator. Williams' father, Bateman Williams, was an ex-Mormon who joined the 1880s rush to the Tombstone area, then to Sonora, where Ben was born. Growing up between Mexico and family in the United States he had that rare ability to work within both cultures and nations.

During the 1920s, after dropping out of the University of California, Berkeley, he joined the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company, selling their conveyors and rubber products

to all of the major U.S. mining firms in Mexico. Williams knew the major players at these companies, expresses his opinions of them (such as the James Douglas family), and recounts adventures on trains, in brothels, and at New York City offices. His strong will and bi-national abilities made him an asset to the company; but instead of joining headquarters in New York, Williams went off on his own.

He worked in ranching as well, and, with Bill Greene (son of Col. Greene of Cananea fame), bought the biggest spread along the border. During World War II, he helped smuggle optical calcite out of Mexico to help the war effort. He owned a number of mines from the 1930s through the 60s; the richest, the Guadalupe near Nacozari, Sonora, made him a fortune during the high copper prices of the Korean War. He also had some down turns, such as a failed tungsten property in Sonora and his half-successful attempt to convert copper leach water from the Bisbee precipitation plants into fertilizer.

Williams is as honest as a denim work shirt, and can get just as dirty. Some of his tales one should take with a good shaker of salt—was he an accessory in the theft of Pancho Villa's head for the Skull and Bones club at Yale?

All three of these books are worthy additions to the mining historian's library. They are much more than regional books; since the mining world is international, lessons learned from one area help one understand what was going on generally everywhere. Photographs are reproduced in the Lenon and Williams volumes, though because they are self-published, the quality is about that of a copy machine. Wolff's book is the most polished, thanks, obviously, to the outstanding production team at the University of Oklahoma Press.

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John L. Ninnemann and Duane A. Smith. ***San Juan Bonanza: Western Colorado's Mining Legacy.*** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006; 85 pp., 71 b&w photos, map, ind., cloth, $24.95. ISBN: 0826335780

What mining history enthusiast doesn't enjoy a good pictorial history, and what better subject could there be for such an undertaking than Colorado's majestic San Juans? This slim volume consists of an essay by Duane Smith, and seventy-one black and white photographs by John Ninnemann, both on the faculty of Fort Lewis College, in Durango, Colorado, the southern gateway to the San Juans.

The essay is, as Smith indicates, a topical sketch of the history of the San Juans. It reiterates several themes that Smith has espoused in other venues. Foremost among these is that the San Juans developed as an urban frontier. Smith discusses the social lives of the San Juans' towns and camps, frequently mentioning the evanescence of most of these settlements and briefly discussing the legacies of their development. The dean of Colorado's mining historians concludes with a poignant epilogue acknowledging the ongoing and inevitable loss of the physical remains of the San Juans' mining history, thanks to the depredations of tourists and of time.

Ninnemann contributes beautiful black and white photos, interspersed throughout the text, of the remains of old sites, physical features, and of pieces of mining history remaining in the San Juan towns now prospering as resorts. That no color photos are included is unsurprising, given the costs involved, but their absence goes unlamented. Is this because one thinks of the mining activities of a century ago in black and white to begin with, or is it because granite and glaciers and weathered wood lend themselves to the high contrast that is black and white's forte? Whatever the reason, these excellent photos of the modern San Juans make pleasant viewing. That the locations of some of the subjects are omitted