

ticipated in the rescue efforts, I can attest to the veracity of the account that James Day has written. Of all the books and reports written on the Sunshine fire, *The Price of Silver* is the best account that I have seen of the disaster. And this book goes further, giving perhaps the best account of the formation of MSHA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, which evolved from the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

The book details the fateful day, from the miners' first entering the mine, to the discovery of the fire, and the subsequent escape and rescue attempts. The book details the fate of each of the ninety-one miners who died, the anguish of their families, and the causes of and responsibility for the disaster. To me, this was a gut-wrenching and, sadly, very factual account of this ten-day tragedy in metal mining history that occurred from 2 to 11 May 1972.

The Price of Silver also gives some background on some of the people who influenced the investigation of this disaster. More importantly, reading this should impress upon metal miners the importance of having a second viable escapeway. Obviously, it is unrealistic to expect people in a deep and hot mine to climb to safety, especially through smoke. However, Sunshine had other safety lapses almost as serious: primitive communications, a lack of someone in command, the time wasted trying to find the fire rather than start the evacuation, and the inability to control its main underground fans by remote control, among other factors.

This book should be required reading for all mining engineering students prior to graduation, and should also be read by everyone interested in the history of mine safety. It is an easy read that also provides a good, brief history of both the Sunshine Mine and the Sunshine Mining Company.

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David R. Berman. *Radicalism in the Mountain West, 1890–1920: Socialists, Populists, Miners and Wobblies*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2007; 401 pp., 10 b&w photos, notes, app., ref., ind., cloth, \$39.95. ISBN: 0870818844.

Western states' radicalism of long ago is a problematic, crucial piece of American western and working-class history. Much of the action centered in difficult-to-reach mining districts and small towns. And was the western miners' story mostly about labor or mostly about the West?

David Berman's book is about both. It explains a many-faceted working class activism and politics in dozens of western places. Most of Berman's work is about that portion of the nation's populist and socialist history that occurred in the Rockies, the Great Basin, and on the Colorado Plateau, but he connects local events to national third party struggles. He also writes about hardrock miners' unionism: the "radical" part of it. Radicalism is easier to describe than to define, and Berman wisely avoids the "What is western radicalism?" issue.

Berman examines the Coeur d'Alenes and Cripple Creek, Bisbee and Butte, and much more, during their times of trouble. He remembers all the tunes of glory, situating all the best-known mining district strikes in local context. He specializes in western mining camp politics, from Idaho and Montana down to Arizona and New Mexico. His sketches of the relevant famous characters are generally sad ones, including Ida Crouch Hazlett's polite and unsuccessful socialist recruiting efforts and Butte ex-mayor Lewis Duncan's forced descent into workplace reality.

Vernon Jensen scrapped with Melvyn Dubofsky and both developed major theories about radical unionism; but that was during the last era of heroic labor history, which ended almost half a century ago. Mining workers' historiography needs a fresh synthesis, which would include many kinds of ordinary westerners. New writing cen-

tered in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era needs to include gender, and to discuss all relevant ethnicities and political persuasions. New working-class and radical syntheses should include “white privilege” and the newest social history.

David Berman’s *Radicalism in the Mountain West* helps assemble the nuts-and-bolts details of third party politics and political radicalism. He writes little about the Social Labor Party, which carved its own niche in several western places. There is too much West and too much labor and social radicalism, and no single study can include it all. But Berman could have gone deeper, exploring connections between years of recurring problems and shifts of populations in Bisbee, Rock Springs, the Coeur d’Alenes, Cripple Creek, and other places. Instead, he stresses breadth of coverage. Following radical cause and effect over the decades might have made a more powerful story.

The West feels oversized and hard to get a handle on; there is always more, but we try. Hattie Titus stood next to Herman Titus in the fight for Northwest socialism, and even after 1890, Chinese and Japanese miners played a complex role in Rocky Mountain labor relations. Professor Berman’s work covers the Rockies, but still leaves many dots to be connected.

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John Stewart. *Thomas F. Walsh: Progressive Businessman and Colorado Mining Tycoon*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2007; 272 pp., 25 b&w photos, 2 maps, 3 append., notes, bib., ind., cloth, \$34.95. ISBN: 0870818708.

Sadly, Thomas Walsh has been forgotten today by many Coloradans and others. If he is remembered at all, is it because he was thought to own the infamous Hope diamond, with its legendary curse. He did not, but his daughter, Evalyn Walsh McLean, purchased it after her father’s death.

Walsh’s story is that of a poor Irish immigrant

who gained wealth and fame in the mining West. In that sense, it is the all-American success saga, the promise that America held for those who traveled to her shores. He arrived in Colorado in 1871, at the age of twenty-one. His wanderings thereafter took him to the Black Hills, Leadville, and finally to the San Juans, where he eventually settled in Ouray and gained ownership of the famous Camp Bird Mine. That mine gave Walsh his fortune and fame, and allowed him to move to Washington, D.C., and hobnob with the rich and famous. It also was the basis for his other investment activities.

That is a thumbnail sketch of the story that historian and attorney John Stewart tells in *Thomas A. Walsh*, and he tells it well, in “high-grade” fashion. Stewart follows his subject with the passion and insight of Sherlock Holmes, and it is a trail that, until Walsh’s good fortune, is often faint. This is a vigorous story of a vigorous man, who saw much of the Rocky Mountain mining West. The story is enhanced by a fine selection of photographs, which helps to further illustrate Walsh and his times. This book will appeal to readers fascinated by mining history, Colorado history, and the adventures of the rich and famous. It is the story of one man who caught fortune by the tail and lived the dream of so many of his contemporaries.

Who, then, was Thomas Walsh? Colorado governor John F. Shafroth eulogized Walsh in April 1910 and captured his significance: “He was always one of the most valuable citizens of this state, generous to a fault, ready to help in any enterprise for Colorado’s advancement. His kindness will be remembered by thousands, the people will miss him more than any other citizen. In spite of all his wealth and riches, he had a strong sympathy for the poor and love for the masses.”

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