

But Redstone, the model company coking town in the Crystal River Valley where Osgood built his mansion, is discussed in the last seven pages of chapter two, and then never reappears. Past that point, the story becomes mostly an account, albeit a good one, of the events and decisions leading to and extending from the Ludlow Massacre. In the telling of that story Osgood himself disappears from the text for pages, even chapters, at a time.

From Redstone to Ludlow is the tenth in the University Press of Colorado's excellent and growing "Mining the American West" series. It is attractively produced, sufficiently illustrated, and well edited, save for the sigilar decision to make "coalminer" one word.

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Larry Jacobsen. *Jewel of the Kootenays: The Emerald Mine*. West Vancouver, BC: Gordon Soules Book Publishing Ltd., 2008; 335 pp., color and b&w photos, maps, tabs., glos., append., ref., paper, \$29.95. ISBN: 0978164010

The Emerald Mine, near Salmo, was located high in the mountains of southeastern British Columbia close to the American border. It produced lead and zinc, but was principally a tungsten mine, first worked in 1896. The Emerald achieved prominence, however, from the late 1940s into the early 1970s, joined by a couple of neighboring properties.

Perhaps the Emerald is not dead, since exploration work continues in the new century, as the price of tungsten rises. "Will the Emerald, like the phoenix of myth, arise out of its ashes and return to life? We don't know. But you can bet that the people of Salmo and the surrounding areas will be eagerly waiting for it to happen [p. 14]."

Author Larry Jacobsen worked at this mine during his mining career, and when he found out it was going to close he set out to save its history.

He interviewed and corresponded with a wide spectrum of people who worked at the mine and lived in the surrounding area. This is a major contribution to mining history.

The book's first forty-six pages recount the mine's and the district's history. Then Jacobsen swings to the core of the book, which is the interviews he conducted with over ninety women and men who had worked there.

The interviews, which took place over several decades, cover a variety of topics and experiences. As might be expected, some are more valuable and interesting than others. Their real significance, however, lies in the fact that they were undertaken and history was preserved. Few other mining properties can claim to have such a complete story, from miner to wife to manager. Photographs of the individuals involved add another dimension.

The concluding chapter, "The Dark Side of Mining," includes fatalities, health and safety problems, and dangerous occupations. The glossary of mining terms will be especially valuable to those unfamiliar with mining slang and terminology.

Author Jacobsen is to be commended for his persistence, dedication, and enthusiasm. He has encompassed a mine and a district, plus its people, into a volume that is a tribute to a time now gone.

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Michael G. Impero. *The Lone Jack: King of the Mount Baker Mining District*. Bellingham, WA: Michael G. Impero, 2007; 180 pp., numerous color and b&w photos, 3 maps, ind., paper, \$24.95. ISBN: 1604027044

Michael G. Impero has spent his entire life in Whatcom County, Washington. The history of the upper Nooksack River Valley was his hobby and, after retiring from thirty-seven years in the

construction industry, he spent the next four years researching the 110-year history of the Lone Jack Mine and the Mount Baker Mining District. *Lone Jack* is his first book.

Mining historians are not to be blamed if they overlooked the 1897 discovery of gold in the rugged, isolated mountains of Washington State. That historic event was completely overshadowed by the major gold rushes in the Klondike and Cripple Creek that occurred concurrently. Fortunately, however, an amateur historian has picked up the pieces and tuned them into the enjoyable and picturesque story of the discovery of the Lone Jack Mine and the little-known gold rush that followed.

The Lone Jack gold vein was discovered on 23 August 1897, on a steep, avalanche-cleared face of Bear Mountain. A very seasoned prospector, Jack Post, made the discovery while his two partners, Russ Lambert, a lawyer, and Luman Van Valkenburg, a logger, prospected the adjacent slopes of Red Mountain. Lambert proved to be a fortunate choice for the partnership because of the legal complications that followed Post's rich gold discovery. Post, the prototypical prospector, sold his share early and spent the rest of his life looking for another bonanza.

Because of the Lone Jack's isolation and difficult access, it took an abnormal amount of time and money to develop. Other adverse factors included a short work season, deep snows, and an extreme avalanche danger. Today, this part of the North Cascade Range is still largely undeveloped and probably traversed more by hikers, skiers, and fishermen than by prospectors or miners.

The book does not contain the extensive notes or a bibliography typically used by professional historians. However, the reader has little reason to doubt the authenticity of the information, compiled from newspaper accounts and oral histories. The book is profusely illustrated with 175 photographs, plus maps and drawings. The author not only covers the history of the Lone Jack Mine, but also mentions other mines and

prospects in the Mount Baker Mining District. He describes some of the principal mining people of that time period, especially a colorful character by the name of Jerry Bourn. The book is a good read and a contribution to the history of mining.

Bob Weldin

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Gordon Morris Bakken. *The Mining Law of 1872: Past, Politics, and Prospects*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008; 238 pp., 24 halftones, 2 maps, notes, bib., ind., cloth, \$45. ISBN: 0826343562.

Western legal historian Gordon Morris Bakken has produced a new treatment of the 1872 Mining Law, a body of law—statutes, regulations, case law, and customs and practices—that has fostered a successful U.S. national mining industry, while at the same time generating much controversy. He includes some history of the law, but Bakken's principal focus is upon the land-use conflicts and environmental issues that can arise out of hard rock mining, and on the on-going battle over whether to revise the law.

Hard rock mining in the West started with the California gold rush of 1848–1849. Neither Congress nor the new state of California acted quickly to try to control the tenure of the 49ers. Miners soon acted on their own to adopt district mining-claim regulations, which were simply meant to define and protect a brief possessory ownership. In a remarkable display of frontier constitutionalism, these pioneers made their own mining-claim laws, and lived by them.

Congress eventually enacted federal statutes in 1866, 1870, and 1872. Contrary to notions that these laws were written to serve the needs of a bunch of rustic pick-and-shovel prospectors, Congress enacted the 1872 Mining Law to provide westerners with secure title to large, prolific mines that were already developed, and that were the economic underpinnings of Nevada, Califor-