

in global political economies can affect ordinary workers, families, and communities; that is, big trends and ideas accompanied by effective power and ideology can make a difference at the local, state, and national levels. The practice illustrates how working people and their advocates can mobilize to protect interests, at least to some extent, even in a hostile environment; that is, solidarity, sacrifice, and mobilization can also make difference.

The lesson is important not only for comprehending the 1980s, but for dealing with the years ahead. As stated by Tony Maher and Andrew Vickers in the foreword: "Coal miners have always understood the importance of learning the lessons of our history. An understanding of our past is the important foundation upon which we build a better future." As capital has globalized in new ways since 1980, so will labor need to reorganize and to re-conceptualize policies, programs, and tactics. Like all good history, *Holding the Line* does a great job telling the story of an important past, but also of laying a foundation to deal with an uncertain future.

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Larry Lankton. *Hollowed Ground: Copper Mining and Community Building on Lake Superior, 1840s–1990s*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2010; 376 pp., numerous b&w illus., maps, notes, bib., ind., paper, \$35. ISBN: 9780814334904

Larry Lankton's latest book discusses the growth and decline of the three major mining companies in Lake Superior's copper country: Calumet and Hecla, Quincy, and Copper Range. Unlike his previous books about the region, *Hollowed Ground* contains less social history.

Primarily a business history, it adeptly covers the closely interconnected stories of the mines and of the communities that the companies cre-

ated. The book focuses particularly on the changing built environment, giving the reader clear, detailed descriptions of mining, milling, and smelting technologies, as well as the architecture in the nearby communities that made up this industrial landscape.

Tracing the copper industry's life over a century and a half provides the reader with insights that would likely be lost otherwise. For instance, *Hollowed Ground* has intriguing things to say about the paternalistic community-building in which these three companies engaged. Starting in the mid-nineteenth century, the companies practiced classic welfare capitalism to help them manage their workforces, building hospitals, places for social gatherings, and company stores.

A century later, however, Copper Range struggled to re-institute traditional paternalism in its new community, the White Pine townsite. The company never built the shopping center, man-made lake, or other amenities it had planned for White Pine, simply because few of its workers were willing to move there. White Pine was never as popular as earlier company housing developments largely because by then workers could commute from hours away instead of living atop the mine shafts or next to the smelters. According to Lankton, accidents while carpooling in the 1960s and 70s were often more dangerous than those underground at the mine!

To help the reader through the details, Lankton breaks the book up into many short chapters, which signpost key junctures in the narrative, and he italicizes important words. The choices of what to italicize are sometimes a little strange—do readers really need Lake Effect snow italicized?—but for the most part this practice is quite helpful in indicating points to which the reader should pay close attention.

Perhaps Lankton's most significant contribution is his discussion of industrial decline, which begins about two thirds of the way through the book. He spends more time than most historians have on the topic, showing that the de-industrial-

ization of a mining area usually does not happen overnight. He traces long periods of contraction for each company. Then he turns to the post-World War II development of Copper Range's White Pine mine, undertaken when most of the other mines in the area were shutting down.

The re-emergence of mining in this area suggests that it may be wrong to always think in terms of strict divisions between industrial and post-industrial eras. As Lankton shows, the process of de-industrialization is often tentative, haphazard, and incomplete. Instead of shutting down operations entirely, a company might keep a mine running at a far reduced rate when facing tough economic times, a recalcitrant workforce, or inefficient technologies. Even if one mine closed, a nearby mine might open at the same time, sustaining the industrial era, even if on a smaller scale. As Lankton puts it, "mines tended to die in fits and starts." If you want to get a good sense of the birth and death of the copper industry in upper Michigan, *Hollowed Ground* will serve as a good guide.

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Donald L. Hardesty. *Mining Archaeology in the American West: A View from the Silver State*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press and the Society for Historical Archeology, 2010; 220 pp., numerous b&w illus., tabs., ref., ind., cloth, \$45. ISBN: 9780803224407

One always welcomes the return of a classic. During the tumultuous times of the 1970s and 1980s, when compliance with new Federal preservation laws required new guidelines on historic mining site documentation and evaluation, Professor Donald L. Hardesty of the University of Nevada-Reno threw us all a life-line with his much needed: *The Archeology of Mining and Miners, A View from the Silver State*, a special publication of the Society for Historical Archeology in 1988. This became the handbook for a genera-

tion of field archeologists, historians, and others. Now the University of Nebraska Press, in concert with the Society of Historical Archeology, has produced a revised edition of this valued guide to the archeology of mining sites, not just in Nevada, but the American West and beyond.

A former president of the Mining History Association, Hardesty has added much new material, photographs, and sources to the work, but keeps its core contributions. The book begins with a discussion of the standard sources one would use in researching a mining site: deeds and company records, photographs and maps, censuses and government records, technical journals, and so on—the "literature search," if you will, of a good mining site Cultural Resource Management project.

In the second chapter he details how to evaluate the technology of a mining site from what is evident on the ground—a primer for field work. Mining sites are complex systems, with most having multiple layers or generations of technology. His focus is on mining feature systems, and this is important. He breaks the discussion down into the multiple systems of extraction, including hoisting and delivery systems; and beneficiation systems, including crushing, milling, concentration, and the multitude of processes used in Nevada and elsewhere to separate metal from waste rock.

The third chapter moves more to the human element, the settlements and households, the workers and transients. Again, he uses many Nevada mining camp examples, but focuses on the details of the short-lived Gold Bug mining camp. It is a model to emulate in documenting the slice of time in which these people called their ephemeral camp home. Hardesty uses not just the artifact assemblages, but historic records to flesh out the story.

He also discusses anthropological ideas to understanding the mining West within the "world system" view of Immanuel Wallerstein. These "mining islands" were part of the global network, with transport and economic systems connecting