

in *Historic Photos of Colorado Mining*. Coloradans, or anyone interested in the legendary history of mining in the Centennial State, will certainly enjoy this book.

Eric Clements

Southeast Missouri State University

Alan Murray. *Holding the Line: A Narrative History of Australian Coal Miners and their Union in the 1980s*. Sydney: CFMEU Mining and Energy Division, 2009, 370 pp., photos, cloth, available online for AU\$24 at www.cfmua.com.au.

The 1980s stand out as one of the most difficult and complicated periods for Australian coal miners. The rise of conservative politics, free market ideology, and international competition all worked against a stable work environment and secure mining families and communities. Notwithstanding the New Right's criticism of their opponents' use of class warfare tactics, the era's mix of deregulatory politics and old-time capitalism amounted to a war on the working class. In this new order, Australia's miners suffered, endured, and fought nearly as much as any occupational group.

Alan Murray's intent in *Holding the Line* is to tell the story of the decade both from the mineworkers' perspective and through the lens of their union, the Miners' Federation, founded in 1915 as the Australasian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation. Murray writes that "the miners' union in Australia has always drawn its strength from its ideological convictions." The convictions and intelligence of both union and worker were severely tested in the 1980s, and Murray succeeds remarkably well in scrutinizing and interpreting the decade's events in order to convey an important story to a wide audience.

The book paints a complete yet nuanced picture that encompasses a cavalcade of personalities, disasters, strikes, betrayals, failures, and triumphs.

Through a carefully-crafted, witty, and sometime biting narrative, the decade comes alive and the reader is transported back to the beginning of what economist Paul Krugman has called "the great unraveling" in describing similar trends in the U.S. It is a saga that will resonate with mineworkers in the United States, Britain, and elsewhere, as the "world taken for granted" was about to change in ways not thought possible.

Holding the Line is a strong example of miners' history, as distinct from mining history. In a most obvious sense, the volume documents a seemingly never-ending series of confrontations between labor and management over work rules, hours, wages, pit openings and closings, and other issues. However, the story is more deeply told, for Australian coal companies have always wanted to lower costs, reduce regulations, and protect interests. What changed domestically in the 1980s was the deregulatory and other supports that state and national governments, both Conservative and Labor, gave to the multi-national coal corporations that controlled the industry. In many ways, *Holding the Line* is as much a political history as a labor history.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke comes in for some extra thrashing. The Federation believed that the Labor Party's top leader should have known better. However much they tried, the organization and its members could not stop Hawke's—or Queensland's or New South Wales'—deregulatory train. Moreover, the union's proposals to systematically manage the national coal resource in order to protect jobs, mining skills, and the environment received no hearing. The free market approach yielded instability, layoffs, and pit closings for the workers while yielding record profits for "the cowboys themselves." Still, the miners carried on and celebrated their successes when they occurred—and there were many.

The book also offers a vital historical lesson composed of one part theory and one part practice. The theory relates to how sweeping changes

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.

Bob Wolensky

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

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-