As Raymond's assistant commissioner, Anton Eilers travelled extensively in the West between 1869 and 1875, collecting and publishing data on Arizona, the Yellowstone region, and parts of Nevada, Idaho, and Montana Territories. Now one of the most widely informed and expert copper and lead metallurgists in the country, he left Raymond's employ and began to turn his mind to making money through practical employment and private enterprise. Eilers became involved in a succession of larger and more profitable businesses in Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Montana, heavily focused on smelting rather than mining, and by the 1880s controlled one of the largest businesses in the country.

At this point the story becomes increasingly complex as first Anton, and then his son Karl, became enmeshed in the formation and development of the American Smelting and Refining trust. Through that relationship, they became involved as partners with the Guggenheims, a development which became increasingly problematic as time went on. By the early years of the twentieth century, the Eilers were being out manoeuvred by the Guggenheims and had begun to lose control of the business empire that they had created—an outcome which author David Eilers ascribes to his forbears being first and foremost engineers rather than financiers.

The ascendency of the Guggenheims within American Smelting continued through the First World War, and the arrival of the abrasive Simon Guggenheim as the chairman saw the eventual removal of Karl Eilers from the board in 1920. By the end of the 1930s much of the Eilers family's once vast wealth had been dissipated and its members relegated to a much reduced status.

This is a very well researched book and the account Anton Eilers' career and inter-actions with associates such as Rossiter Raymond is clear and makes easy and interesting reading. David Eilers is at ease with family narrative history. However, the second section, which endeavours to interweave the family's story with the business machinations of the American Smelting and Refining Company, breaks down. Constant switching between family and business history fogs the central story of the Eilers' passage of leadership from one generation to another and the gradual loss of control. It is, as it claims, good family history, not good business history.

As a postscript it might be worth mentioning that the term "slag" on this side of the Atlantic is applied to women of loose virtue. It would be a mistake to buy this volume in anticipation of salacious content.

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Robert D. McCracken and Jeanne Sharp Howerton. ***Tybo, Nevada: Gem of the Sagebrush Frontier and Other Settlements in Hot Creek Valley.*** Tonopah: Central Nevada Historical Society, 2016; 312 pp., 103 b&w illus., 9 maps, 4 append., ref., bib., ind., cloth, $25, ISBN: 9780965290876

This book is a history of Tybo, a small mining district tucked in a canyon in Central Nevada, which produced a total of a bit less than $10 million in gross production of silver, lead, and other minerals. Tybo's output shows a series of productive periods and lulls from 1867 to 1940, with the peak of both prosperity and population in the late 1870s, when perhaps as many as twelve hundred persons (likely less) called the canyon home. But this book is also an exemplary study of a small western mining district, and as such has much to offer the field of mining history.

Dr. James Gally, a dentist bitten by mining fever, arrived in 1864 in Austin, Nevada, ground zero for the Reese River rush, and struggled to make a living so he could strike it rich with mining. The struggles and make-do continued—as Gally's wife "Mat" documented in her diary—until 1870, when the doctor and his partner, Martin Gillett, located the 2G ledge in Jerusalem Canyon, about

twelve miles south of Hot Creek. Their discovery became the camp of Tybo, and the 2G by far its most important mine.

Gally and Gillett refused early low-ball offers to sell, and worked until 1874 to develop the mine. Their efforts were rewarded when John B. McGee, superintendent of the famous Richmond Consolidated mine in Eureka, Nevada, bought the 2G and nearby properties, and created the Tybo Consolidated Mining Company to work them, financed with capital from London and San Francisco. This company made boom times at Tybo until its failure in 1879.

The mining properties then passed through many hands, as several new attempts were made to work the mines, but little lasting success was achieved. Renewal of mining on a large scale in Central Nevada after the turn of the twentieth century—with Tonopah, Goldfield, and Ely leading the list of productive districts—brought new attention to reopening the Tybo mines. The reopening did not go swiftly, however. A capital-intensive push in the late 1910s produced a little ore, but issues with excess zinc in the concentrates stymied production.

The property was sold to the Treadwell-Yukon Mining Company in 1925, which again dewatered the mine, conducted some fruitful exploration, sank a new shaft eventually reaching 1,310 feet, and built a new concentrator. The USGS published a study of the region in 1933. Under this ownership, the mines produced about $6.7 million from more than four hundred thousand tons of ore between 1929 and 1937. The mill closed in the latter year, with the company declaring the mines essentially worked out. Small-scale leasing and exploration efforts continued sporadically until 1979. Today, some mining artifacts and buildings remain on the site.

Having related the mining history of Tybo, McCracken and Howerton turn their attention to the social history of Tybo and the surrounding area. According to the authors, who make extensive and careful use of surviving newspapers from Tybo and nearby towns (in addition to other primary sources), the camp was seen as a good place to live during the boom years of the 1870s "because of its surprisingly rich social life and the congeniality of so many of its residents" (p. 74).

The authors examine every aspect of life in detail, describing businesses, bars, ethnic minorities, boarding houses, prostitution, and more. Later periods receive similar attention, though the population was smaller. The last chapters recount the history of one of the valley's pioneering ranching families, as well as the short but interesting history of atomic testing in the Hot Creek Valley, which is north of the better-known Nevada Test Site. (The first detonation in 1968, code named "Faultless," proved to be the last when the underground explosion created unexpected and extensive ground fracturing and subsidence.) A short postscript, some present-day photos of the camp, and several appendices conclude the book. Parenthetical references are used throughout, and a bibliography is provided.

This reader has a few minor criticisms. The chapter organization is sometimes haphazard, and the reader would benefit from greater context in the early chapters particularly. Some chapters explore in depth topics already developed in some detail in earlier chapters. A few chapters are oddly short. A couple of the chapters about ranching families and activity outside Tybo seem a bit out of place, and some of the sidebars could be more clearly connected to the main narrative. Likewise, some of the appendices seem unnecessary or unconnected, such as an account of the discovery of gold in California in 1848. Seemingly no anecdote is left unrelated, and while this level of detail is generally a strength, it can occasionally be overwhelming. Although most of the book leans exclusively on primary sources, the authors occasionally miss chances to utilize more up-to-date historical scholarship—for instance, in discussing the early history of the Comstock Lode, Ron James' excellent scholarship from 1998 would be preferable to the 1867 report of Browne and Tay-

lor. Some of these issues may be the result of the difficulties of fully integrating the prose and ideas of two authors.

Despite these few criticisms, this book should be considered a model of the "biography of a small mining community" genre. Equal attention is paid both to the mining and technological detail and to the community's history, plus the regional context is considered in addition to those activities that took place within the camp itself. The authors integrate a wide variety of primary-source-based evidence, including newspapers and oral histories, all carefully documented with scholarly references. Further, the book is very handsomely produced, with a quality cloth hardcover binding, professional proofreading, typography, and layout, and clear reproduction of images. In each of these areas, the authors and publisher surpass the norm for this type of book.

While such works will perhaps inevitably have a limited audience, typically being of interest primarily to local residents and scholars who study the state or region, they are also the bedrock units of our scholarship. If we ever can hope to treat mining history in a more synthetic fashion, carefully researched, readable, and scholarly accounts of specific mining camps—like McCracken and Howerton's study of Tybo—will be essential to the work.

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