

were trapped in the mine, or later when they went into the mine to try to rescue survivors. Some of the miners who perished underground left notes for their loved ones, and Ammons imagines flesh to put on what little bones we have of their stories. The result is an excellent piece of writing that should be satisfying to most mining historians, even without footnotes and bibliography.

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Lorena Beniquez. *Lost Coal Country of Northeastern Pennsylvania*. (Images of Modern America Series.) Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2017; 95 pp., 144 color photos, paper, \$22.99. ISBN: 9781467126410

Author, photographer, videographer Lorena Beniquez brings to life the derelict, abandoned mining sites of northeastern Pennsylvania through a photographic journal kept over the last thirty years. Her book is part history, color photo journal, and a tour guide of a mining region that is now in decline, even dormant.

Beniquez is the great-granddaughter of a coal miner of the northeastern anthracite region. Several decades ago she set out to learn more about her family's history and its tie to the coal industry. With her camera at her side, Beniquez traveled to mining sites to capture the declining industry. Time passed and she returned to capture photographs as more sites were identified for demolition in environmental cleanup efforts or scraped for their metal. After capturing the Huber Coal Breaker the year before it was razed, she was troubled by the realization that only one breaker remained in the entire state. Thus, she focused her efforts on more research with plans for a documentary or a book.

The book is broken down into six sections that reflect interrelated industries tied to the mining industry. The first chapter features the St. Nicholas Coal Breaker, at the time of publica-

tion the last remaining breaker in Pennsylvania. Sadly, on March 15, 2018, the 1931 breaker came down in a controlled implosion. Beniquez' photographs capture the history of the site just before its demise.

The second section explores the history of the Huber Breaker in Ashley. Interviews with members of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society provide details about the buildings and their technological advances of a lost era.

Section three, "Killing the Canary," explores the Knox Mine disaster through story and photography of environmental scars left behind. Beniquez highlights the dangers of the industry and its many mining accidents in the region over the decades.

The next chapter explores the codependent existence between the railroad industry and mining as interpreted at the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton. Railroads made possible the growth of industries like coal and steel.

In Chapter Five, the reader is introduced to Centralia, the abandoned borough that sits over an underground mine that has been burning for over fifty years.

In the final chapter, the author-photographer explores the lives of miners and coal patches in the preserved remains at Eckley Miners' Village Museum and Concrete City. The ninety-acre Eckley site depicts how miners and their families lived in the late 1800s, while Concrete City, "touted as an upscale version of the coal patch," depicts an architectural experiment gone awry.

The book is a haunting journey through a bygone era of Northeastern Pennsylvania's history. As the author revealed in an interview with Mary Therese Biebel of the Wilkes-Barre *Times Leader* in August of 2017: "It's important to remember the past, to commemorate the miners and honor them for what they endured." Through photography Beniquez leaves behind a testament to these men.

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