may contend that this is to endow a rather commonplace occurrence—the 'wide open' mining frontier town, probably more the *norm* than an example of resistance—with too much theoretical significance.

The parallel article by Sheridan provides a fascinating historical case study of a major act of resistance—a strike by mine workers in the copper mines of the Walker District of Arizona in 1903. A major component in Sheridan's story is that of the clash of race and ethnicity—particularly by the minority elite miners of Anglo-Saxon and Irish background against the majority of immigrant workers primarily from Mexico. His main argument is that the bosses of the Arizona copper mining companies deliberately encouraged racial and ethnic prejudice among unskilled miners in order to undercut the budding trade union movement and thereby to keep wages down. (pp. 180-86)

Another excellent essay, worth more than the cursory comment allowed here, is that by John Rule entitled a "A Risky Business: Death, Injury and Religion in Cornish Mining, c. 1780-1870" which provides a European perspective. Anyone who has studied the miner's life and the technology of mining in the nineteenth century knows how important migrant Cornishmen, were in staffing skilled positions—such as timbermen, blastmen—in mines throughout the world. In this encapsulation of his own larger work, Rule covers nearly every important aspect of the Cornish tin miner's life, including management practices, class analysis and working conditions, but with a special emphasis on deaths and injuries due to accident and disease. In the mid-nineteenth century the mortality of Cornish tin miners was more than two and one-half times that of coal miners. (159-60) Yet for a number of interesting reasons, particularly the role of evangelical religion, there was less class conflict and worker resistance in the Cornwall tin mines than in most other sectors of the British mining industry.

The present review cannot do justice to the breadth and variety of this book. In brief, the editors of *Social Approaches to and Industrial Past* have put together a fascinating volume, very different, with its theoretical social science and comparative perspectives, from mainstream mining histories. A number of the chapters are of absolutely top-notch quality; and nearly every one presents interesting new concepts, methodologies and hypotheses that will provide fresh food for thought in mining anthropology, archaeology and history.

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Beth & Bill Sagsetter, *The Mining Camps Speak, A New Way to Explore the Ghost Towns of the American West*, Denver, Colorado: Benchmark Publishing of Colorado, 1998, 283 pp., illus., bib., index. $19.95 paperback.

*The Mining Camps Speak* offers the reader a new perspective for exploring the towns, structures and artifacts left by the early miners of the Western frontier. Using narratives of their own explorations of the ghost towns of Colorado, the Sagsetter's have put together an admirable book for both the weekend explorer and the mining historian. It is the "Peterson's" field guide to the cultural resources of abandoned mining camps.

The authors seek to develop in the reader a keen sense of observation when looking at the remnants of a mining camp. They demonstrate through both narrative and photographs that careful interpretation of small details can yield insights not apparent from the "big picture." Appropriate warnings regarding entering mines and conservation of sites are also not overlooked.

While sometimes repetitive, each chapter divulges more clues for determining the identity or purpose of a particular item or structure that one might encounter in the field. For example, the author's piece together a seemingly unidentifiable pile of rotten timbers into the assay office it once was. Rusted hoists and boilers are also brought back to life through the experiences and words of Harold Thompson, the hoistman for the London Butte Mine in Alta, Colorado. Each chapter is followed by a field guide which illustrates each subject through photographs of artifacts *in situ* along with a brief description. The *International Correspondence School Reference Library* is frequently referenced for background details on the mining artifacts.

Almost every aspect of the mining camp is covered by the Sagsetter's. Given the often remote camps, transportation of persons, supplies and ore was an important element to the survival of a mine and town. "Transportation ran the gamut from packing burros and mules on narrow pack trails, to using freight wagons on wagon roads, to aerial trams, and all the way to railroad spurs at the largest mines." While none of these is covered in detail, a brief history and representative photos of what remains are provided to whet the reader's appetite.

As each chapter unfolds, it becomes evident that the Sagsetter's objective with the book is not only to give enough information to analyze the physical remains of a camp, but also to provide direction for research beyond initial observations. Much of their research on items, such as china fragments found in former boarding houses and hobnail boots, was conducted at the Colorado Historical Society Library.

Cemeteries, as one might expect, are the subject of the last chapter. The headstones of the pioneers still speak. As is aptly pointed out by the authors, "A stroll through an old cemetery is like a roll call of the names of those who came to this place. . . ." A date of death can provide one clue, while an epitaph can offer insight into how a person met their end. Again the Sagsetter's show the reader how to use collateral reference materials to fill in blanks by giving an illustration of how tragic events, such as mine accidents or epidemics, are often headlined by local newspapers and can help explain multiple deaths around a given date.

The Sagsetter's conclude their book by providing a useful glossary of mining terms, a patent timetable and a listing (although, in their own words "by no means complete") of Western US mining museums and tours. An extensive bibliography is also included.

Through the Sagsetter's, the mining camps can speak. While this is not a scholarly work, it merits a place on every mining historian's bookshelf as the first and only guide of its type.

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Clark C. Spence. *For Wood River or Bust: Idaho's Silver Boom of the 1880s.* Moscow: University of Idaho Press, 1999. 260 pp. illus. Notes, $29.95.

The current vogue of the personalization of the past, engenders an uncomfortableness in this reviewer. With that confession, I hope the following transgressions will not embarrass the author or the reader. As I recall, I first encountered Clark Spence at a Mississippi Valley Historical Association convention in Denver in the spring of 1959. Clark, John Hakola and the undersigned spent an evening together in the now defunct Cosmopolitan Hotel in Denver (renown for two features, "Trader Vics" and a bar, where many an oil deal was struck). That evening marked not only the beginning of a friendship, but as the years passed by an increasing admiration for this remarkable historian of Foley street, Urbana. Few are the historians who have single handedly, by the magnetism of their example, so dominated a field of western history. Clark's first book, *British Investments and the American Mining Frontier, 1860-1901,* was immediately recognized by the profession at large in receiving the Albert H. Beveridge Prize from the American Historical Association (I stand to be corrected, but I believe Earl Pomeroy and Clark Spence are the only two historians of the West to be so honored.)

A hydraulic stream of mining historiography has poured from Spence's typewriter/computer over the following decades. I have been impressed time and again in my contact with the mining profession how many geologists and engineers know (and even more surprisingly) have read Spence's *Mining Engineers and the American West: the Lace Boot Brigade,* a breadth of readership conferred on few historians.

What strikes any reader of Spence's prose is that, while conversant with the musings of his fellow historians, his books are based on the bedrock of manuscript sources. Originality has always been his coin, sought and counted. Spence's contribution to mining history has not been limited, as impressive as it is, to the gilded page. Elsewhere, I have noted his seminal role as "godfather" of the mining archive in the American Heritage Center. As missionaries among mining historians, Spence's seminar students are scattered about the land. As book after book tumble