

limestone is one of the most favorable conditions for ore deposition, but miners and prospectors had to learn the significance of this geological feature. They would slowly find that most of the silver replacement deposits were at or near this contact. In *Mining Among the Clouds*, the discussion of the geology of the limestone and porphyry contact was confused by the inclusion of a historical cross-section inconsistent with the text, which shows a sandstone layer between the limestone and the porphyry.

The book presents a good explanation of the problems that occurred in locating and recording mining claims on the eastern slope of the Mosquito Range. The terms "lode" and "vein" simply did not apply to the horizontal replacement deposits there; nor could these deposits be considered placers. The mining laws in place at the time were not equipped to deal with this newly-discovered type of mineral occurrence. The Mining Law of 1872 made the situation even more confusing by requiring the prospector or miner to locate his claim at the apex, or top, of the lode.

While there was silver in the high altitudes of the Mosquito Range, there was initially no market for it because of the exorbitant cost to transport the ore to existing smelters and the absence of local mills and smelters. *Mining Among the Clouds* details the starts and stops of a number of small mountain smelters in Park County that sprang up to serve an ore market. It would have been helpful in understanding the area's geography, transportation issues, and such, if one or more detailed maps had been included to show the location of the smelters that were built, and the more significant town sites, creeks, and claims discussed.

This well-researched volume reveals the role that the development of the Moose Mine and others in the area played in recognizing the significance of the horizontal silver deposits in limestone in Park County. Extrapolating Park County's geology to Lake County, on the other

side of the Mosquito Range, pointed the way to the fabulous silver deposits of Leadville, arguably the beginning of Colorado's silver boom.

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Andrew C. Isenberg. *Mining California: An Ecological History*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2005; 242 pp., illus., map, bib., ind., cloth, \$27.

The late historian Carl Becker's famous remark that "every generation writes its own history" is exemplified in this postmodernist interpretation of California's nineteenth-century industrial development. Mining, logging, ranching, and land-grabbing are familiar themes to students of western American history, but Isenberg's refreshing new look deconstructs old themes to analyze the consequences of exploitation both on Native Americans and on the landscape they inhabited long before the Euro-American invasion.

Cause and effect are juxtaposed in a methodology bordering on environmental determinism in this selective study that focuses primarily on hydraulic mining, redwood logging, cattle ranching in the gold rush era, and the Modoc War of 1872-3. This is ironic, since the author's favorite whipping boy, Frederick Jackson Turner, saw a linear development of the frontier through a deterministic lens that started with "wilder-ness" and ended, after a steady "march of progress," in civilization.

Instead of a linear progression, Isenberg draws a retrograde picture of nineteenth-century California, beginning with a congested and degraded foothill landscape in the gold rush era that quickly gave way to corporate mining. Before farming came urbanization, if one can use that term to characterize the filthy streets of Sacramento and other "collection points for raw materials" that made up California's coastal and riverine trade centers.

Even agriculture in California followed a different pattern than Turner's progressive small farms. The author limits his discussion to rancheros in the south, who exploited grasslands to keep vast herds, but lost everything to drought, disease, and debt. Bonanza farming in the Central Valley he only mentions in passing, focusing instead on the agrarian land grab in northern California that dispossessed the Modocs and triggered their futile but deadly war. In this Euro-American triumph of extractive technology, Native Americans were exploited along with the landscape, losing their hunting lands as well as their freedom in a nineteenth-century "enclosure movement" that left Indians as the industrial proletariat. Only as the century drew to a close was wilderness "invented" by Romantics in reaction to this "industrial resource exploitation."

Though this book covers different turf than the title implies, the author's empirical analysis of the hydraulic process and of the damage it caused is set in an ecological framework well worth pondering by anyone interested in mining history.

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M. M. Anderson. *The Mining Camps: Salina and Summerville*. Boulder, CO: Junction House, 2005; 442 pp., photos, notes, index, inserted map, cloth, \$37.

Author M. M. Anderson states on her book jacket that *The Mining Camps: Salina and Summerville* is a history of two Boulder County, Colorado, mining camps, beginning with their settlement in the 1870s and ending when the last rail of the Switzerland Trail of America was hauled away in 1920.

This comprehensive book actually covers much more. It is a definitive social history and blends anecdotes about people with facts about

mine workings, mills, and mine accidents. The 442-page, 8 1/2 x 11-inch hardback tells where and how miners and their families lived, worked, and died, and even shows how they thought and felt. Descendants will discover a wealth of information. But those interested in Colorado mining history will soak up a bygone era, almost as if they, too, had experienced these Boulder County communities' ups and downs.

Anderson quotes generously from newspapers, whose writers, like the author, had a flair for detail. One of my favorite glimpses of everyday life was published in the *Boulder County Miner* in 1912. The reporter wrote that, "at her father's residence, Miss Pearl Cooke entertained the Spinsters' Club Monday morning. Refreshments were served after which the guests listened to the excellent rendition of her own composition, 'Alone at the Washtub.'"

Miners at work in the mines and mills, however, is a major part of the book. The first 122 pages give a chronological account of people, the railroad, and the mines, again pulled mostly from newspaper articles of the time. ("At the Chivington, Harry James struck a good body of ore and was less than thrilled to find that it was mostly silver.")

Following this historical background are chapters of in-depth biographies of Salina and Summerville families. A chapter on mine accidents is complete with a poem written in 1908 on an explosion in the Ingram Mine that killed three miners. Their eulogy began,

Straight in the throat of the stope they
crawl,
these three men tired and true.
Swift like a star while we watch it fall,
fall through the ether blue.

The final chapters of the book give specifics on the houses in the two mining communities, then follow the lives of many of the residents after they gave up mining-camp life and moved