

says examining central and secondary distribution settlements that supplied mining districts. And Part V has three essays examining mining sites on creeks in the far north.

Most of the twenty contributors to this volume are long-time employees of federal agencies who have done archaeological work on federal lands. Their essays largely reflect a perspective on far northern rushes which focuses on the Klondike, Nome, and Fairbanks gold rushes, while largely ignoring the lesser but numerous small gold rushes that had far-reaching impacts on nearly every area in Alaska and in portions of the Yukon. However, this volume does contain essays on lesser-known mining camps, such as Coldfoot in the Koyukuk mining district, Tofty in the Hot Springs mining district, Valdez Creek in the upper Susitna region, and Fish Creek in the Fairbanks mining district.

The theoretical models and case studies presented in this volume will be useful to those who are interested in early mining in the far north. The contributors provide thoughtful theoretical frameworks and analyses that shed light on the common attributes of mining camps, and of the supply and transportation systems that were necessary to support mining in Alaska and the Yukon in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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Janet L. Finn. *Mining Childhood: Growing Up in Butte, Montana, 1900-1960*. Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2012; 323 pp., 91 b&w photos, notes, bib., ind., paper, \$25. ISBN: 9780980129250

Mining Childhood is a detailed and captivating history of children in the mining town of Butte, Montana, during the first six decades of the twentieth century. In Finn's hands, children are

an inseparable part of the work and social activity of the famed "Richest Hill on Earth," giving mining historians a fresh perspective on mining history.

Finn's book consists of eight chapters plus an introduction, endnotes, a bibliography, and a fine index. The first chapter provides a summary of Butte's social and economic history, with an emphasis on events relevant to children. This helpful context sets up the historical matter in the rest of the book. Chapter Two provides a single-chapter summary of how Butte's mining industry impacted the children who grew up there, and—vice versa—the effects children had on life and work in Butte. Chapter Eight, at the end of the book, revisits the issues raised by the sources in previous chapters and considers the relationship between childhood and mining landscapes. These chapters are likely to be those researchers turn to for a nuanced framework that might be applied elsewhere for understanding children in mining towns.

The other chapters form the heart of the book, where Finn explores in greater detail the themes she set up initially, and illustrates them with rich detail. These chapters rely heavily on a wide range of oral histories, some conducted by Finn and others dating as far back as the late 1970s. Finn augments these crucial sources with archival and photographic material to discuss reform and community efforts aimed at children, children's play in Butte, their school attendance, and the labor—paid and unpaid—they contributed. Chapter Seven uses one person's oral history to combine the various themes in a single life story.

Finn uses this wealth of material in a commendably judicious way. Not only is the narrative interesting and informative, but Finn is admirably cautious about over- and under-sentimentalization, to which work on the history of children can be prone. She also largely avoids reusing anecdotes or retelling stories, which can be a challenge when writing an analytical work based on narrative sources such as oral histories. Ample photographs, scattered throughout the book,

provide complimentary visual evidence. In several delightful photographs, Finn's caption points out a child or children lurking in the margins of mining landscapes who would have been easy to overlook.

The book has a few limitations that might not be immediately apparent. First, this book is only about Butte, and Finn does not connect the story of childhood there to the experiences of children in other mining camps. Readers may be left wondering whether children's lives in Butte were unique or typical of mining communities elsewhere. Second, though Finn talks about "Butte" throughout the book, she really only means a subset of the city. Her analysis concentrates almost exclusively on Butte children from neighborhoods such as East Butte, Meaderville, McQueen, and Walker-ville, which were immediately adjacent to mining activity. In a single paragraph in the final chapter she justifies her decision to exclude from her analysis children from neighborhoods elsewhere in Butte (many middle and upper class) because of their lessened proximity to mining activity. But inclusion of at least a few stories from beyond the mining neighborhoods would have likely contributed additional nuance to her discussions of class and neighborhood identity. Finally, a map of Butte would have been a very welcome contribution, given the importance Finn placed on neighborhood boundaries, school locations, and mining sites.

By focusing on the lives of children, Finn's *Mining Childhood* is able to tell a story that is ultimately about much more than "just" kids growing up in an important mining town. The history Finn shares says a great deal about the lives of everyone, not just children, in Butte.

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David R. Berman. *Politics, Labor, and the War on Big Business; The Path of Reform in Arizona, 1890-1920*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2012; 376 pp., 17 b&w photos, 2 maps, notes, bib., cloth, \$55. ISBN: 9781607321811

This study is a political history of Arizona during the Populist and Progressive eras, 1890 to 1920, during which time Arizona achieved statehood. It is of interest to the mining historian because of the dominant role of mining in the Arizona economy and because mining labor, with its radical tendencies, was a significant share of Arizona voters.

With a population of 123,000 in 1900, Arizona was a lightly populated yet diverse place. Mines, railroads, ranches, farms, and small-businesses made up a complex web of political and economic interests, making coalition building challenging, particularly for those interests lacking the economic wherewithal of the railroads and large copper mines. Statistically, mine and railroad workers were one of the largest voting groups but were far from unified, running the gamut from conservative trade unions to the United Mine Workers and socialists.

The possibilities of statehood and drafting a state constitution focused political energies and opened the way for a political coalition among interests seeking to counterbalance the overreaching power of mines and railroads over the territorial government. Farmers, ranchers, and other small businesses sought to shift the tax burden to larger corporations. Mine and rail workers sought various work-related reforms that they could not achieve through bargaining, and a state government that did not side with management in labor disputes.

Berman takes the story back to the territorial days of limited self-government, when governors were appointed by the president and the small underpaid legislature seemed eager to trade votes for cash. Populism took root quickly in Arizona, and appeared at times to have broad support due to