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## Book Review

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Thomas J. Noel and Cathleen M. Norman. *A Pikes Peak Partnership: The Penroses and the Tutts*. Boulder: The University Press of Colorado, 2000, 280pp., illus., bib., index, hardcover, \$34.95.

Despite its title, this story is largely about the life and legacy of mining magnate Spencer Penrose in the Pikes Peak region of Colorado. Born in 1865 into a wealthy and well-connected Philadelphia family, Penrose enjoyed the advantages of private tutors, preparatory school and a Harvard education, then sought his fortune in the West. Penrose journeyed to Colorado Springs in 1892, when his Philadelphia friend Charles L. Tutt asked him to manage the newly established Cripple Creek office of Tutt's real estate agency.

Tutt and Penrose created their initial fortunes by gaining control of most of Cripple Creek's mining, milling, and transportation activities by 1900. Authors Tom Noel and Cathleen Norman emphasize the importance of Philadelphia connections to the success of the firm of Tutt and Penrose. Eastern relatives, friends, and associates bankrolled their efforts, supplying much of the capital they needed to establish their great enterprises. Of particular importance were Penrose's brothers, one a prominent geologist and mining engineer, the other a U.S. senator, who gave Penrose technical advice and political connections.

These connections and Tutt and Penrose's business and promotional skills created syndicates which controlled Cripple Creek's railroads and soon processed most of the district's ores. After 1903, Penrose went his own way, reinvesting his Cripple Creek winnings to build an even greater fortune from copper mining in Utah and the Southwest. Such famous companies as Utah Copper at Bingham Canyon, Ray

Consolidated in Arizona, and the Chino enterprise at Santa Rita, New Mexico, benefitted from Penrose's investments, as did he from them.

Penrose also diversified into agriculture and tourism in the Pikes Peak Region. His tourist ventures included scenic railroads, scenic toll roads, auto touring companies, the Pikes Peak Hill Climb (which he began for promotional purposes in 1916), and the crown jewel of his empire, the Broadmoor Hotel. Opened in Colorado Springs in 1918, the Broadmoor was a European-style resort hotel, featuring polo grounds, golf courses, an ice rink, and a rodeo arena. In 1924, Penrose consolidated his business empire under the El Pomar Investment Company.

By then the Tutt family had returned to the story in the person of Tutt's son, Charles Tutt, Jr. The senior Tutt had dissipated much of the family fortune by the time of his death in 1909, so Charles, Jr. and subsequent Tutt family members were employees rather than partners in the Penrose empire. Charles Tutt, Jr. served as director of the El Pomar Investment Company and Penrose's later charitable El Pomar Foundation. His sons Thayer and Russell administered the Penrose charities from the 1950s through the 1980s.

The authors believe that Penrose's 1906 marriage to Detroit socialite Julie Villiers Lewis McMillan helped to transform him into a philanthropist. His conversion, in fact, culminated in the 1937 creation of the El Pomar Foundation, which he endowed with \$15 million upon his death two years later. Among the Foundation's assets were the Broadmoor Hotel, a number of Penrose's tourist enterprises, and millions of dollars in Kennecott stock. Julie continued to oversee the Foundation until her death in 1956. In compliance with Spencer and Julie's wishes, the

Foundation supports educational, arts, health, sports, and recreational charities in Colorado.

While the U.S. Tax Reform Act of 1969 has required the Foundation to divest itself of majority ownership of Penrose's business assets, those sales have increased the endowment and freed the Foundation's managers to concentrate on their non-profit activities. Between 1937 and 2000 the El Pomar Foundation was awarded more than \$250 million in grants, over half of that amount since the divestiture. Today the Foundation's assets approach half a billion dollars, and its trustees are determined to take a more active and public role in Colorado's charitable activities. The publication of *A Pikes Peak Partnership* is one manifestation of that new direction.

Since the El Pomar Foundation funded the research, writing, and publication of *A Pikes Peak Partnership*, certain emphases are understandable. The robber baron-ish aspects of Penrose's rise to wealth—particularly his role in western mining's labor wars—are treated honestly but not in much

depth. Noel and Norman do acknowledge Penrose's anti-union sentiments and activities during the Colorado City and Cripple Creek strikes of 1903-4, and later at the Bingham Canyon Mine and the Broadmoor Hotel. At times the authors' devotion to chronicling lineages and lifestyles makes the text read rather like a blue book, crowded with the genealogies and biographies of peripheral figures.

Although scholarly in its research and citations, Noel and Norman have written this book for a general audience. The text is extensively illustrated with a few color and many black-and-white photographs. Unfortunately, a number of the black-and-white illustrations are too dark. This and several minor factual errors do not detract too seriously from an interesting and readable examination of the life and legacy of one of the West's greatest bonanza kings.

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