

Richard C. Huston. *A Silver Camp Called Creede: A Century of Mining*. Montrose, CO: Western Reflections Publishing Company, 2005; 549 pp., 121 photos and illus., notes, bib., ind., cloth with dust jacket, \$32.95.

Richard Huston grew up in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, where he spent considerable time camping, fishing, and skiing in the mountains surrounding Creede. While attending the Colorado School of Mines, Huston spent his free summers working for the Emperious Mining Company at Creede. Here he learned the mining business from the ground up, starting as a mucker and eventually advancing to drift and stope miner.

After graduating with a degree in engineering and serving time in the military, he returned to Creede to work surveying in the Creede mines. He eventually left the San Luis Valley to work at the Climax mine near Leadville, and for a career that took him all around the globe, but he never forgot Creede. After he retired, Huston decided to write about the history of Creede and its miners. *A Silver Camp Called Creede* is the result of his extensive research.

Surprisingly few books have been written recently about one of the last, and perhaps wildest, mining camps in Colorado. Nolie Mumey's limited edition, *Creede, The History of a Colorado Mining Town*, published in 1949, and Leland Fietz's 1969 booklet, *A Quick History of Creede, Colorado Boom Town*, are two that immediately come to mind. An updated history of Creede was long overdue.

According to Huston, his book is not about the wild times in the 1890s, but is about the prospectors, the discoverers of the rich veins, those who invested their time and money to develop the mines, and, most importantly, those who worked in the mines during Creede's century of mining.

Huston's book starts with good discussion of the district's geology. This he had reviewed by

U.S. Geological Survey geologists Phil Bethke and Paul Barton, whose thirty-year government study of Creede's geochemistry has led to a greater understanding of the economic geology of the district. The book continues with an overview of the discoverers of the district, which include Richard Irwin and Nicholas Creede, among others.

This is followed by chapters on topics such as the railroads, early investors, boom towns, conflicts and litigation, early mine transportation, and mining poetry. However, the bulk of the book is dedicated to a discussion of the various mines in the district, among them the Bachelor, Commodore, Last Chance, Amethyst, and Holy Moses.

The Creede District has produced an estimated \$700 million of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and fluorspar from an estimated 182 miles of mine workings. The first recorded production of silver from Creede was in 1884 and the last in 1988. This book takes on the large task of covering the mining history of this entire period. The chapter "The Second Boom: 1960-1988" covers more recent sites and activities in the district including the Bulldog Mountain Mine, an important addition to the written history of the district.

Huston relies heavily upon passages taken from a variety of contemporary publications including local newspapers, mining engineering journals, federal government publications, and contemporary books. Perhaps as much as a third to a half of the book consists of these passages, making it a good reference for the relevant writings of the district. The book is extensively footnoted and a complete bibliography is provided. A large number of interesting photographs are included, many of which have probably not been published before. It would have been nice if these photographs could have been reproduced in a larger format on different paper stock so that even more detail could be seen.

Possibly the most interesting chapter in the

book, "The Miners," includes many stories of miners' experiences working in the district. The book was inspired by Richard's friend, John R. Jackson, who is the source of many of these stories. Jackson is described as a Creede native, prospector, miner, mine manager and developer, self-made geologist and mineralogist, writer, and poet. However, one of the better stories in the book is in the forward and comes from Huston himself.

I will never forget my first day in the Commodore Mine at Creede. I reported to work on night shift (4:00p.m. until midnight) with a hard hat, carbide lamp, lunch in a paper sack, and no water. My work station was on a level a hundred or more feet above the main level. On the way up the ladder, I burned a hole in my lunch sack with my unfamiliar carbide lamp and the lunch went down the ladder way. I got awful thirsty, and after realizing I had no water, decided to drink out of a trickle of water coming into the drift. The water was loaded with sulfates and the result was diarrhea. What a day! No water, no lunch, and diarrhea in a place totally void of light except for the feeble beam supplied by my carbide light. I worked along and completed the shift even though I was exhausted, hungry, thirsty, and ill. I'm surprised that I went back to work the next day!

We are glad that he didn't give up on Creede and eventually compiled this history. Huston packs a lot of interesting information into his book. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in the mining history of Creede, where, according to Cy Warman, the "poet of the Cochetopas,"

It's day all day, in the day-time,
and there is no night in Creede.

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Elinor McGinn. *A Wide-Awake Woman: Josephine Roche in the Era of Reform*. Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 2002; 203 pp., ill., paper, \$21.95.

Elinor McGinn's biography about Coloradan Josephine Roche is the seventh volume in the Colorado History series published by the Colorado Historical Society through the University Press of Colorado. This well-researched and written work is the first biography of Roche. It describes the professional career of a "fighter for social rights" for American coal miners, not only in Colorado but at the national level.

Born on 1 December 1886 in Neligh, Nebraska, to John and Ella Aspinwall Roche, the young Josephine led a privileged life. Her father was a successful businessman who made his wealth in the financial industry. Both of her parents were well educated and provided their daughter with an "upper-class education" at Vassar and Columbia University that "led to the formation of her progressive ideals." Not afraid of hard work, Roche worked with delinquent girls in New York's settlement houses and later with Denver's juvenile and probation courts. In her early adulthood, Roche associated with like-minded individuals concerned with political, social, and economic problems in America. Within this close network of friends and mentors were a number who held government jobs and who would later open political doors for Roche.

Roche's first social reform efforts began in Denver. When Roche's friend, George Creel, newly-elected Denver police commissioner, offered her a job as Denver's first policewoman—