

ing promoters could offer endless amusement and outrage.

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Bob Weldin. *The Dry Diggin's Club*. Spokane: Miner's Quest, 2012; 303 pp., paper, \$20. ISBN: 9780578106823

Mining engineer Bob Weldin, a long-time member and former president of the Mining History Association, explained his motivation for joining the novel writing fraternity:

The stories in this book are primarily based on events that happened to the author and other field geologists during the 1960s. The stories have been fictionalized to illustrate what might have happened as well as what actually did. The reader should not try to attach actual names to the characters because they are composite personalities developed to illustrate the more interesting and dynamic people who are attracted to the mining industry.

The story takes place in the Pacific Northwest and focuses on Sara Mullins, who “is able to break into this masculine domain, yet, preserve the attributes of her femininity.” The author brings her alive as her career unfolds in the evolving world of mining in the post-World War II era and beyond. Along the way, it also provides some interesting insights into the mining profession.

Rather than summarize this well-paced story, the reviewer encourages one and all to read and enjoy *The Dry Diggin's Club*. Where does the title come from? That too may be found in the book.

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Catherine Holder Spude, Robin O. Mills, Kark Gurcke, and Roderick Sprague (eds.). *Eldorado! The Archaeology of Gold Mining in the Far North*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press and the Society of Historical Archaeology, 2011; 357 pp., 39 b&w illus., 8 maps, 27 tabs., ref., paper, \$55. ISBN: 9780803210998

This volume is the first attempt to summarize the work of historic archaeologists on early gold mining in Alaska and the Yukon Territory. The book is written primarily for archaeologists, but will be useful to historians, ethnologists, and other cultural resource specialists. Historic archaeological studies on mining sites in the far north—field surveys, excavations, oral histories, and analyses of material culture—began in the 1970s. Most of the early work focused on Skagway and Dawson. Since the 1990s, considerable archaeological investigation has been carried out in other parts of the far northern mining frontier, but much of that work was produced in “gray literature” (unpublished professional reports) for government agencies and papers presented at conferences.

This volume, which focuses on placer mining, is divided into five parts. Part I includes essays by Robert Spude, giving a brief overview of the history of Alaska-Yukon gold rushes between 1880-1918; Donald Hardesty, on theoretical perspectives on frontier mining patterns; Robin Mills, on a proposed model for a placer-gold-mining settlement system; Catherine Holder Spude, on predicting social and economic function at residential and commercial sites in the far north; and Margaret Purser, on comparative opportunities and challenges, seeking to put the work done on Alaska into a national perspective and suggesting directions for future historic archaeological studies of mining in Alaska.

Part II consists of three essays focusing on coastal transfer and supply settlements provisioning the Upper Yukon through Skagway and Dyea. Part III includes two essays on links in the interior transportation system. Part IV contains four es-