

broke even, returning within a year able to resume their lives.

Perhaps most significant, Woodin both kept a written journal in 1898 and penned a memoir, authoring the latter between 1910 and 1914, 12 to 16 years after his return. Ably edited and contextualized by the historian Catherine Holder Spude, these separate documents, placed side by side, offer a compelling case of the difference between experience and memory. In his journal entries, Woodin recorded a fair amount of hardship and misery in terse passages. The second of the three journals did not survive, and Spude explains that either Woodin or his father likely destroyed it given the outpouring of misery, resentment, and loneliness it contained. Woodin also edited out his pining for his fiancée in the memoir, out of respect for his second wife, whom he courted and married in the years he composed the later account. The memoir far outstrips the diary in length and detail. It is very specific, constructed mostly from memory. Writing more than a decade later, he gave his adventure narrative shape and meaning distinct from the visceral experiences themselves. This is particularly clear in his conclusion, in which he made the *real* story Seattle and its emergence as the great city of the American Northwest—the city he left for a mere seven months of “strife, hardships, sickness, and disappointments” (p. 222). In another passage describing a young man’s tragic drowning upriver of Dawson, Woodin presented yet a third narrative, a fictionalized version of the event as a short story. Hence we encounter interesting layers of text and interpretation, in which Woodin’s experiences, memories, and imagination intersected.

Spude has ably fleshed out stories, chasing down incorrect names as well as birthplaces and other biographical details. She accounts for all named participants, both before and after 1898, informing the reader about how

A History of Gold Dredging in Idaho

CLARK C. SPENCE

(Boulder: University Press of Colorado, *Mining the American West* series, 2016. x, 331 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essay, index. \$57)

Clark C. Spence, author of *A History of Gold Dredging in Idaho*, is a towering figure in the fields of mining and western American history. Known as the Dean of Mining History, Spence has written 13 books since the publication of his first, *British Investments and the American Mining Frontier, 1860-1901*, in 1958. The current book is something of a sequel to Spence’s *Northern Gold Fleet: Twentieth-Century Gold Dredging in Alaska*, which came out in 1996.

Gold dredges are mechanical systems created to dig gravel too deeply submerged to be reached by traditional placer mining techniques, such as panning. In theory at least, dredges dig the gravel, separate the gold from it, and discard the waste. The often-massive electrified machines (a Bucyrus machine put to work near Idaho City in 1911 boasted 68 fifteen-foot buckets and weighed roughly 900 tons), constructed to dredge gold in Idaho and the rest of the American West during the 1890-1920 heyday of gold dredging, constitute proof positive of the highly modern, industrial nature of mining in the region at the time. These machines, built by companies such as

enriched the Marion Steam Shovel Company in Ohio and the Bucyrus Foundry and Manufacturing Company in Wisconsin, in many cases then had to be transported, at great cost and effort, to such isolated, high-mountain mining locations as Warren and Stanley Creek, Idaho. Gold dredging in Idaho, as Spence shows, clearly was not for the faint of heart or the undercapitalized. The book also demonstrates that, though some of the Idaho gold-dredging operations—nearly all of which were owned by individuals and not by corporations—were consistent earners, most decidedly were not. Gold dredging in Idaho continued into the 1930s, but was suspended during World War Two and has remained mostly dormant since the war.

For the industry, as for average Idahoans until the 1930s, Spence notes, “The environment was not part of the equation” (p. 309). Gold dredging left a good deal of environmental harm in its wake, in particular damaging many riparian areas and destroying much fish habitat. Spence devotes the final chapters of the book to the considerable federal, state, and private efforts, most of which have occurred since 1980, to clean up Idaho rivers and streams and restore damaged fish habitat.

This book, clearly the product of years of painstaking research, offers a treasure trove of information about the Gem State’s fascinating, but now largely forgotten, history of gold dredge mining. It is sure to be a much-valued resource for mining, western, and Idaho historians, and history buffs, for many years to come. At times, however, Spence’s tendency simply to list dredge company and investor names, and provide the details of company financial records, makes for rather tedious reading. Though he does a reasonably good job of contextualizing the environmental destructiveness of gold dredging in Idaho, the book’s other principal subjects would

have benefited from a similar treatment. Did Idaho's gold dredge mining history follow roughly the same patterns as that of other western states? Were operators any more or less likely to turn a profit and stick it out for the long haul? Were the machines employed basically the same as those used elsewhere, or were there decided differences? Tackling comparative questions such as these would have lent a greater breadth and utility to the book. In addition, the book could have used a good map of Idaho showing the locations of all the districts where gold dredges were employed. These concerns notwithstanding, this work undoubtedly stands as a worthwhile and informative addition to the literature of western and mining history, a literature Spence has done much to build.

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Keeping Oregon Green Livability, Stewardship, and the Challenges of Growth, 1960-1980

DEREK R. LARSON

(Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2016. ix, 307 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95)

Derek R. Larson charts the history of Oregon's green credentials in his new book, *Keeping Oregon Green: Livability, Stewardship, and the Challenges of Growth, 1960-1980*, by exploring the state's environmental triumphs during two decades of legislative action and innovation. Larson relates the lived experience of Oregonians to the wider environmental and cultural identity imbued by the Pacific Northwest's scenic beauty and examines how Oregon citizens and politicians effected legisla-

tive change, serving as a regional example for the nation to draw upon. Through this perspective, Larson explores the idea of Oregon exceptionalism and its ties with the great outdoors, which underpinned the state's political rhetoric and identity. The efforts to "preserve Eden" amid suburbanization, urban expansion, and economic growth are carefully traced throughout the monograph. Larson's case studies aptly show the concept of livability transitioning from a preordained factor of Oregon life to a rallying call for environmental causes.

Larson refers to the usual environmental canon of this period, notably Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962), and to the usual themes of postwar consumerism and the threat posed by nuclear production. At times these references become tedious for readers familiar with the development of postwar American environmentalism, but they do not detract from the author's thesis and intentions.

In each chapter, the author takes a procedural route, detailing the trajectory of legislation, campaigns, and activism. Larson introduces key players in Oregon politics and maps their connections to the variety of environmental issues, demonstrating a network of interests, actions, and coalitions.

By beginning with an investigation into the failed attempt to designate the Oregon Dunes a national park, Larson strengthens his thesis that immediacy, proximity, and visibility were instrumental in the civic environmentalism that arose during the period 1960-80. "Dunes was largely forgotten" because of a lack of these qualities, while roadside litter and polluted waters were not (p. 82). Community efforts to eradicate littering and to clean up water courses in the state of Oregon receive ample and measured treatment, as do the debates over the aesthetics of highway billboards and preserving public access to Oregon beaches.

Each chapter deftly circles back to how Oregonians view themselves, setting up a multifaceted argument about the nature of place identity. Oregonians, Larson argues, define themselves not in terms of how they differ from the rest of the nation but in terms of how they differ from Californians. Larson pays close attention to Oregon's view of California, noting how jokes about the state turned into deeper criticism over the period 1960-80. In this light, the Golden State acts as a contrast to an environmentally aware Oregon, marking the California sprawl as something to not emulate. The reach of the anti-California attitude beyond political rhetoric and media headlines could be an extensive study in its own right. Whether Larson is overemphasizing a classic neighbor-state rivalry in environmental contexts is debatable.

Larson refers to women's garden clubs in the fifth chapter, but the point is transient, and he does not take this opportunity to explore how Oregon environmentalism had a gendered element in an account that is heavily male dominated. However, this could be because the political and legislative events referenced were not entirely gender balanced.

Keeping Oregon Green, aside from using rich source material, excels by giving credence to the importance of lived-experience histories. Larson's approach provides a fresh angle on environmental history topics, and the book would serve both academic and popular audiences dutifully.

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