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Leaded: The Poisoning of Idahos Silver Valley

By Michael C. Mix

Oregon State University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 336 pages. Leaded: The Poisoning of Idahos Silver Valley examines the origin, evolution, and causes of harmful environmental and human health effects caused by mining operations in Idahos Coeur d'Alene Mining District, the Silver Valley, from 1885-1981. During that period, district mines produced over 4 billion worth of lead, silver, and zinc. The Bunker Hill Company dominated business and community activities through ownership of its rich mine, lead smelter, and zinc plant. During the first half of the 20th century, industrial mining operations caused severe environmental damage to area waterways and lands from releases of lead and other toxic metals, and sulfur gases. Despite the obvious devastation, no effective federal laws regulating mining and smelting operations were passed until the 1970s, due to the influence of the mine and lead industry in state and federal politics, and scientific uncertainties about pollution effects. Harmful human health effects were evident soon after the smelter opened in 1917, when Bunker Hill workers suffered from lead poisoning, but no federal laws regulating workplace lead were passed until the 1970s. In 1974, lead smelter emissions from Bunker Hill caused the largest epidemic of childhood lead poisoning in U....



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