

Coal In Campbell County: A Journey through Time and Industry



Coal In Campbell County: The Story Of Coal Mining In Campbell County, Wyoming

by Jeffrey Anderson

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Nestled in the heart of the Powder River Basin, Campbell County, Wyoming, has played a pivotal role in the history of coal mining in the United States. From the early days of hand-dug mines to the sprawling surface operations of today, coal has shaped the county's landscape, economy, and culture. Coal In Campbell County is a comprehensive and captivating account of this extraordinary industry, offering a unique glimpse into the lives of miners, the rise and fall of coal towns, and the lasting legacy of coal in Campbell County.

The Early Days of Coal Mining

Coal mining in Campbell County began in the late 1800s, with small-scale operations supplying fuel for local use. However, it was the advent of the railroad in the early 1900s that transformed the industry, opening up new markets for Campbell County's vast coal reserves. By the 1920s, large-scale mines were in operation, employing thousands of workers and producing millions of tons of coal each year.

The Rise of Coal Towns

As the coal industry boomed, so too did the population of Campbell County. Coal towns sprang up around the mines, each with its own unique

character. Hanna, one of the largest coal towns in the county, boasted a bustling downtown, schools, churches, and a hospital. Other coal towns, such as Acme and Glenrock, were smaller and more isolated, but they all played a vital role in supporting the coal industry and shaping the social fabric of Campbell County.

The Miners' Lives

The coal miners of Campbell County were a tough and determined lot. They worked long hours in dangerous conditions, often for meager pay. Many miners suffered from black lung disease, silicosis, and other health problems related to their work. Despite the hardships, miners were also fiercely proud of their trade and the role they played in powering the nation.

The Decline of the Coal Industry

The coal industry in Campbell County reached its peak in the 1950s and 1960s. However, with the advent of new energy sources and the decline of the railroad industry, the demand for coal began to decline. By the 1980s, many of the mines in Campbell County had closed, and the coal towns that had once thrived were now struggling to survive.

The Legacy of Coal in Campbell County

Although the coal industry in Campbell County is no longer as dominant as it once was, its legacy continues to shape the county today. The county's economy is still heavily dependent on coal, and many of the coal towns that sprang up during the boom years are still inhabited. The coal industry has also left a lasting mark on the county's landscape, with abandoned mines and coal waste piles serving as reminders of its past.

Coal In Campbell County: The Book

Coal In Campbell County is a beautifully illustrated and meticulously researched book that tells the complete story of coal mining in Campbell County, Wyoming. Through stunning historical photographs, engaging narrative, and insightful interviews with former miners, the book brings to life the men and women who built the coal industry and the communities that grew up around it. Coal In Campbell County is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of the coal industry, the American West, or the enduring spirit of Wyoming's people.

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