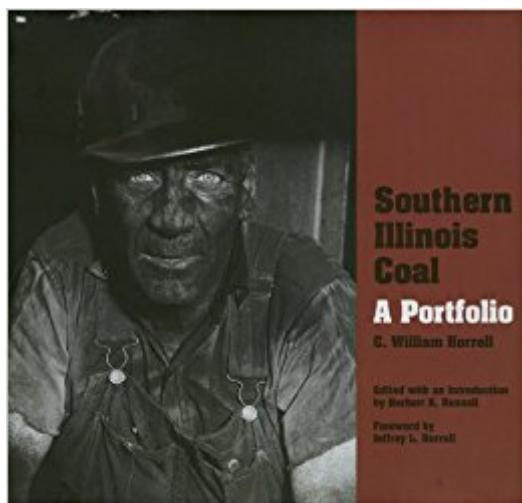


The book was found

Southern Illinois Coal: A Portfolio (Shawnee Books)



Synopsis

The coal mining photographs of C. William Horrell, taken across the southern Illinois Coal Belt over a twenty-year period from 1966 to 1986, are extraordinary examples of documentary photographyâ "so stark and striking that captions seem superfluous. Horrellâ ™s photographs, reproduced in fine duotone lithography, capture the varied phenomena of twentieth-century coal mining technology: the awesome scale of surface mining machines and their impact on the land; massive machines forced into narrow passageways with inches to spareÂ as they carry coal from the face to conveyer belts; and, more significantly, the advent of continuous miners, machines that dominated underground or "deep" mines during the mid-1960s. Horrell was also intrigued by the related activities of mining, including coalâ ™s processing, cleaning, and transportation, as well as the daily, behind-the-scenes operations that keep mines and miners working. His photographs reflect the beauty of the commonplaceâ "the clothes of the miners, their dinner pails, and their toolsâ "and reveal the picturesque remnants of closed mines: the weathered boards of company houses, the imposing iron beauty of an ancient tipple, the grassy sidewalks of an old coal town, and an abandoned building against the lowering sky of an approaching storm. Finally, his portraits of coal miners, such as the widely published Black-Faced Miner, show the strength, dignity, and enduring spirit of the men and women who work the southern Illinois coal mines.

Book Information

Series: Shawnee Books

Hardcover: 108 pages

Publisher: Southern Illinois University Press (December 4, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0809313413

ISBN-13: 978-0809313419

Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 0.7 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,912,198 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 inÂ Books > Travel > United States > Illinois > General #1181 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Rural #12561 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Travel

Customer Reviews

C. William Horrell (1918-89) was widely recognized as an outstanding social-documentary

photographer and taught at Southern Illinois University's Department of Cinema and Photography. His stomping grounds, the bottom portion of Illinois, is commonly known as Little Egypt--and is also known for its coal mines. That industry, particularly the men who toiled in it, held fascination for Horrell, and this album of his mine photographs, taken between 1966 and 1986, shows a Walker Evans-like sensitivity and artfulness in capturing ordinary folks wearing their problems and their individuality on their faces. In addition to the miners, Horrell trained his camera on mining equipment, which, of course, has grown in sophistication since the days of the pickax, and on the towns and houses miners lived in. Exceptional photography and social commentary that transcends regional interest. Brad Hooper

“In cool documentary style, Horrellâ™s photos detail the miners, the methods, and the artifacts of Illinois coal. From giant surÂ-face shovels to self propelled underground extractors, processing equipment, and abandoned mines, Horrell covered the coal fields.â•#151;St. Louis Post Dispatch

Just As Described!! Perfect Transaction! Thank you

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