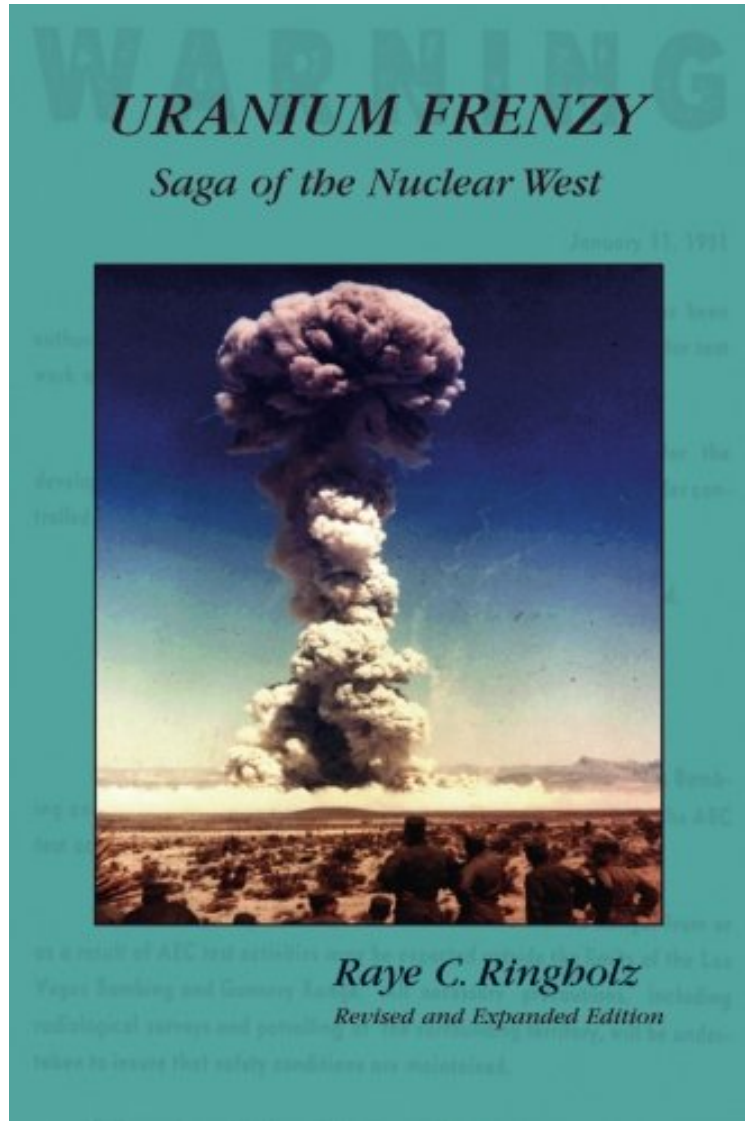


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Uranium Frenzy: Saga of the Nuclear West

Raye Ringholz

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Raye Ringholz : Uranium Frenzy: Saga of the Nuclear West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uranium Frenzy: Saga of the Nuclear West:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must reading for western history buffs
By Robert G. Hooper
An excellent history of uranium in the western US. I live near and have visited most of the places mentioned in the book so I am naturally interested in this history. It is must reading for anyone else interested in the history of the western United States or in uranium and nuclear power in general. The story will make you question anything our federal government tells you about anything else.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I learned much about the

era and about the origins of the off road trails I so enjoy in my Jeep around Moab. By dxpope The author gets a little lost in the weeds with regard to the penny stock frenzy. His writing seems as frenzied and disjointed as the time about which he writes. Nonetheless, I learned much about the era and about the origins of the off road trails I so enjoy in my Jeep around Moab, UT. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. hard to find, worth it. By eric ramirez This book has given me new insight into the history of mining in the Moab area, as well as in the San Rafael Swell. I grew up playing in these places and there was always so much mystery shrouding their history because no one knew what happened, or no one around cared. Ringholz presents all the facts and all the pieces of the puzzle. Now when I go to Moab I have stories to share and things make more sense as to why things look and are placed where they are.

Now expanded to include the story of nuclear testing and its consequences, Uranium Frenzy has become the classic account of the uranium rush that gripped the Colorado Plateau region in the 1950s. Instigated by the U.S. government's need for uranium to fuel its growing atomic weapons program, stimulated by Charlie Steen's lucrative Mi Vida strike in 1952, manned by rookie prospectors from all walks of life, and driven to a fever pitch by penny stock promotions, the boom created a colorful era in the Four Corners region and Salt Lake City (where the stock frenzy was centered) but ultimately went bust. The thrill of those exciting times and the good fortune of some of the miners were countered by the darker aspects of uranium and its uses. Miners were not well informed regarding the dangers of radioactive decay products. Neither the government nor anyone else expended much effort educating them or protecting their health and safety. The effects of exposure to radiation in poorly ventilated mines appeared over time.

From Publishers Weekly In a perceptive and touching narrative, Ringholz (*The Wilderness Handbook*) recalls that the Federal government in the early 1950s subsidized uranium mining for the coming atomic age. The policy set off a frenzy of prospecting and speculation in Utah and Colorado that resembled an old-time gold rush. Dogged adventurers made, and later lost, millions on a single strike. Big companies bought out small claim holders by the dozens while other investors gambled frantically on uranium "penny stocks." Meanwhile, health experts who detected longterm cancer-causing radiation in the mines and urged safety measures were thwarted by greed, inertia and bureaucratic red tape. Hundreds of miners died; many families received no compensation. Ringholz intrigues the reader with an expert blending of science, adventure, industry mania, finance, human triumph and despair and shameful official neglect. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The frenzied search for a reliable domestic source of uranium ore needed by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission in the 1950s is the subject of Ringholz's breezy narrative, which is populated with colorful characters. When Charlie Steen, a young, penniless geologist, struck it rich with a large find of high-grade uranium ore, the treasure hunt was off in the Colorado deserts. The fortune-seekers included solid prospectors, engineers, and financiers, but also get-rich-quick con artists and promoters of dubious penny uranium stocks. Some became overnight millionaires; many went broke. The real losers were the miners suffering from lung cancer from the deadly radon gas in the mines. This is good popular reading for general collections in public libraries. - Harry Frummerman, formerly with Hunter Coll . , CUNY Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.