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Good Time Girls Of The Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush



Synopsis

In the boomtowns of the Alaska-Yukon stampedes, where gold dust was common currency, the rarest commodity was an attractive woman, and her company could be costly. Author Lael Morgan takes you into the heart of the gold rush demimonde, that "half world" of prostitutes, dance hall girls, and entertainers who lived on the outskirts of polite society. Meet "'Dutch Kate'" Wilson, who pioneered many areas long before the "respectable" women who received credit for getting there first... ruthless heartbreakers Cad Wilson and Rose Blumkin... "'French'" Marie Larose, who auctioned herself off as a wife to the highest bidder ... Georgia Lee, who invested her earnings wisely and became one of the richest women in the North... and Edith Neile, called "the Oregon Mare," famous for both her outlandish behavior and her softhearted generosity. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Klondike Kate Rockwell, a good-time girl with a heart of gold, came to the Yukon in 1900 to find wealth and fame in the same mad scramble for gold that had lured many an adventurous young man. Her story of money made and lost, of multiple marriages and scandal, is one of the many similar tales chronicled in this well-researched and deftly written work by journalist Morgan. Women who followed the gold fever trail from Dawson to Nome to Fairbanks may have shared their male counterparts' ambition and courage, but their means of achieving success were severely limited. Legally unable to stake a claim or own a saloon, most chose to make their fortunes by "mining the

miners." Some became showgirls and prostitutes, others became rich through marriage or multiple liaisons, while still others led lives of desperation culminating in murder or suicide. Although there is a sadly repetitive quality to the accounts, this work's unique perspective and splendid period photos make it a recommended purchase for academic and public libraries. ?Rose M. Cichy, Osterhout Free Lib., Wilkes-Barre, PA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

At the turn of the century, tens of thousands of American men migrated to Alaska to seek their share of millions of dollars in gold that was being mined in remote, subarctic camps. The eyes of the world turned to these voyagers who made fortunes overnight and sometimes lost them just as quickly, but it's taken nearly 100 years later to tell another side of the story-that of the "good time girls" who kept company with these men. We're talking about the women of the gold rush demimonde, "that half world of prostitutes, dance hall girls and entertainers who lived on the outskirts of respectable society," as author Lael Morgan describes them. Overall, they were a fiercely independent lot, defying post-Victorian society to travel north and endure incredible hardship, and sometimes heartbreak, as they, too, sought their fortunes. Among the many fascinating women whose stories are meticulously told by Morgan are "Dutch Kate" Wilson, the first good time girl to blaze a trail across the Yukon; femme fatales like Rose Blumkin, Cad Wilson and "French Marie" Larose, who auctioned herself off for marriage to the highest bidder; Georgia Lee, who became one of the wealthiest women in Alaska; "Klondike" Kate Rockwell, a violet-eyed chanteuse who wowed audiences with her legendary "Flame Dance;" and the outrageous Edith Neile, a.k.a. the "Oregon Mare." It was a time and place where anything was possible, and many of these women became prominent citizens, wealthy property and business owners, and society wives, such as one former prostitute who married the mayor of Fairbanks and hosted President Warren G. Harding when he came through town. Morgan tells these stories with humor and empathy, and fully documents details of the era, especially with a wonderful collection of rare photographs. An associate professor of journalism at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, she has researched the history of the Far North for more than 30 years, and the depth of her work is reflected in this well-crafted and enormously entertaining saga of a little-known till now, but important piece of the gold rush story. -- From Independent Publisher

My grampa bought this book in sitka, alaska at old harbor books one summer while we were fishing, and it stayed on the boat until it sank. So i bought another one!Kinda disjointed, short stories about some memorable ladies of the yukon, but all in all, very entertaining.The title of "Diamond Lil"

Davenport has been passed down to grampas youngest grandchild, Lillia.

Excellent history of the "working" women in Alaska.

VERY INTERESTING!

I liked the first few chapters but it quickly became repetitive and somewhat dull. Would appreciate more back story, or even thoughts on the psychology and/or sociological factors that drove these women, and/or greater detail about the lives they led.

Excellent information allowing understanding about a group of very independent, unusual business women during the gold rush in Canada/Alaska.

Loved this book. Love history and loved how the "Soiled Doves" helped to give Alaska a great history of the wild days of yore and the development of this state.

This book gave me a look at Alaska and the women who helped populate the state, They followed the men to a harsh barren land and became a part of its history. Enjoyed the book.

Not as interesting read as I had hoped.....A lot more generalizations than expected

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