

## ROCKY FLATS BOOK/MEDIA LIST - updated 12/18/11

### Non-fiction books on Rocky Flats

Len Ackland, ***Making a Real Killing: Rocky Flats and the Nuclear West*** (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1999). This well-documented history of the Rocky Flats plant during production years and the beginning of cleanup activities was written by the former editor of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* who now teaches journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Robert Adams, ***Our Lives and Our Children: Photographs Taken Near the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant*** (Millerton, NY: Aperture, a Division of Silver Mountain Foundation, 1983). This volume consists of images from daily life of people who lived near Rocky Flats at the height of the production years; in a brief concluding essay the photographer says each of the many individuals depicted “refutes the idea of acceptable losses.”

Patricia Buffer, ***Rocky Flats History*** (DOE Rocky Flats Field Office, July 2003). This invaluable reference work provides a timeline of more than 50 years of Rocky Flats history, written from an inside-the-plant perspective. PDF version is available on line.

Kim S. Cameron and Marc Lavine, ***Making the Impossible Possible: Leading Extraordinary Performance: The Rocky Flats Story*** (San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2006). A business management specialist who teaches at the University of Michigan and a graduate student from Boston College celebrate the “abundance approach,” which, according to them, was successfully employed by Kaiser-Hill in the cleanup of Rocky Flats.

***Clean Energy Verse: Poetry from the Tracks at Rocky Flats*** (Woodstock, NY: Safe Earth Press, 1979). Illustrated with photos by Robert Godfrey, this booklet, produced to support the Rocky Flats Truth Force, contains poems by Allen Ginsberg, Anne Waldman and others.

Joseph Daniel (photographs) and Keith Pope (text), ***Year of Disobedience*** (Boulder, CO: Daniel Productions, 1979), with preface by Daniel Ellsberg and poetry by Allen Ginsberg. This book is a photo-documentary on the 1978-79 demonstrations and civil disobedience blockade of the railroad tracks leading in to the Rocky Flats Plant.

Jennifer Haines, ***Bread and Water: A Spiritual Journey*** (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997). A devout Christian pacifist provides an intensely personal account of how she fulfilled her mission of bearing witness at Rocky Flats by means of daily vigils at the facility’s west gate and repeated acts of civil disobedience trespass for which she spent extended periods in federal penitentiaries.

Farrel Hobbs, ***Rocky Flats Facts: An Insider's View Of Rocky Flats: Urban Myths Debunked*** (2010). This book's author worked at Rocky Flats from 1969 until plant

closure in 2005, except for an interlude of about seven years. He held a variety of positions at the plant but made his largest contribution in environmental management. In fact, he was head of environmental management for Rockwell when the FBI raided the plant in 1989 to collect evidence of alleged environmental lawbreaking. His several chapters on the raid, the grand jury, the out-of-court settlement and the absence in his view of any real criminality directly counters claims made in *The Ambushed Grand Jury* by Wes McKinley and Caron Balkany, another book described in this list. While his narrative is very even tempered, he criticizes a wide range of parties, from outsiders who overstate plutonium's danger to the media, the union of hourly plant workers, the DOE, Dow Chemical and EG&G. He praises Rockwell for protecting its employees by paying fines for crimes it did not commit. His engaging account will be of interest to any who care about the legacy of Rocky Flats, including peace and environmental critics. The book is available both on line and in hard copy.

Kaiser-Hill Co., LLC, *Rocky Flats: A proud legacy, a new beginning: The story of the world's largest and most complex environmental cleanup project* (2005). This booklet, produced by the company that did the Rocky Flats cleanup, tells their story from their point of view.

John J. Kennedy, Jr., "Annihilation Beckons: A Brief History of Colorado's Nuclear Bomb-Trigger Factory," *Colorado Heritage* (Spring 1994). This special issue of the official journal of the Colorado Historical Society is devoted primarily to Kennedy's informative, very well illustrated article on the history of the Rocky Flats Plant. Attention is paid both to the work done at the plant and to the activities of those who resisted what was done there.

Clayton Lagerquist, *The Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant I Remember: Its Rise and Fall* (Morrisville, NC: Lulu.com, 2009). The author of this highly opinionated book was a health physicist at Rocky Flats from 1963 till 1988. Alongside his descriptions of individuals and the radiation detection world at the plant, he levels harsh criticisms at elected officials, the plant union, the media, the Federal Government (for supervising all activities at Rocky Flats, then suing Rockwell International for environmental misconduct), and, not least, "the anti-Rocky Flats movement that ultimately caused its closure" and who were "nothing but terrorists without guns." "Safety of the employees," he says, "was never a problem at Rocky Flats." These are clearly not the words of an exposed production worker. When a colleague urged him "to reduce radiation exposure by a certain percent each quarter," his reply was that he couldn't because "any reduction would have to be accompanied by a reduction in production."

*Lamm-Wirth Task Force, Final Report* (Denver: The Task Force, 1975). Convened by newly elected Governor Dick Lamm and Representative Tim Wirth, the Lamm-Wirth Task Force concluded that Rocky Flats should never have been located in a major metropolitan area and that it should be closed and its work moved to another location.

***Local Hazard, Global Threat: Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant*** (Denver: Rocky Flats Action Group, 1977). This 20-page handbook contained most of what was publicly known about Rocky Flats at the time of publication.

Wes McKinley and Caron Balkany, ***The Ambushed Grand Jury: How the Justice Department Covered Up Government Nuclear Crimes and How We Caught Them Red Handed*** (N.Y.: Apex Press, 2004). The foreman of the grand jury convened after the 1989 FBI raid of Rocky Flats to investigate environmental wrongdoing at the facility and attorney Balkany reconstruct the tale of high-level deceit and denial at Rocky Flats.

LeRoy Moore et al., ***Citizen's Guide to Rocky Flats: Colorado's Nuclear Bomb Factory*** (Boulder: Rocky Mountain Peace Center, 1992). A comprehensive account of what was publicly known about Rocky Flats at the time of publication, this work became an essential handbook for many people dealing with the Rocky Flats issue.

***Summary of Findings: Historical Public Exposure Studies on Rocky Flats*** (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, August 1999). This work summarizes the findings of the nine year dose reconstruction study for the Rocky Flats plant. The study estimated the quantities of radioactive and toxic substances released from the Rocky Flats plant to the off-site environment during the production years of 1952 to 1989, on the basis of which it also estimated increased cancer risk to residents living or working in surrounding areas during the period of the plant's operation. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment administered the study. Oversight was provided by a 12-member Health Advisory Panel appointed in 1999 by former Governor Roy Romer.

Eric Wright and Judy Danielson, ***Songs to Convert Rocky Flats*** (Denver: Rocky Flats Action Group, 1979). This small booklet of songs was widely used for years by Rocky Flats activists.

#### Non-fiction works in which Rocky Flats receives significant attention

Len Ackland, "Open Wounds from a Tough Nuclear History: Forgetting How We Made Ourselves an Endangered Species," in ***Remedies for a New West: Healing Landscapes, Histories, and Cultures***, edited by Patricia Nelson Limerick, Andrew Cowell and Sharon K. Collings (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2009). In this article Ackland, a professor of journalism at the University of Colorado and author of *Making a Real Killing: Rocky Flats and the Nuclear West*, looks at the task of remembering our nuclear history being taken on by museums in various places. He cites the bad example of the Smithsonian being prevented from telling the full story of the Hiroshima bombing on the event's 50th anniversary in 2005. Closer to home, he says the DOE "is discouraging the public from remembering and considering the broad historical legacies of Rocky Flats," preferring instead a one-dimensional "Cold War Hero" narrative, as if there had been no global threat, no contamination, no ill workers. He advocates a shared storyline of "unacceptable Risk."

David Albright, Frans Berkhout, and William Walker, *Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium 1996: World Inventories, Capabilities and Policies* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1997). This volume, a project of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), provides details on the inventories of weapons-grade nuclear materials on hand or “unaccounted for” at Rocky Flats in 1996.

Tad Bartimus and Scott McCartney, *Trinity's Children: Living along America's Nuclear Highway* (NY: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1991). The authors interviewed dozens of people who live near or work at sites involved with the nuclear weapons enterprise along the broad swath of Interstate 25 from the Trinity bomb site in southern New Mexico to the MX missile silos near Cheyenne, Wyoming. Included along the way is Rocky Flats.

Thomas Bullock's *Diary of a Cold War Patriot* (Smashwords, Inc., 2011, available online at <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/74199>) narrates the career of a retired nuclear engineer. He reports on three activities in which he was involved at Rocky Flats while employed by Parsons Corp., an engineering firm located in Pasadena, CA. The first was development of "more stringent fire protection systems" after the 1969 fire at the plant. The second was the effort to correct design problems that plagued Bldg. 371, which he calls "a \$250 million white elephant" (that's 1980 dollars). Intended as "a state-of-the-art" replacement for the outmoded and quite dangerous Bldg. 771 plutonium processing facility, Bldg. 371 became contaminated throughout soon after startup. Bullock was brought in from the outside to lead a \$60 million ultimately unsuccessful effort to get the building back into operation. Thus the newest, most robust, most expensive building in Rocky Flats history was never used for the work for which it was created. The third Rocky Flats activity mentioned by Bullock was the little-known highly secret "black budget" project to develop depleted uranium armor plating for U.S. Army tanks. Initially deployed in West Germany during the 1980s, tanks with this DU armor became notable for their use in the two U.S. wars in Iraq.

Mary Clifford (editor), *Environmental Crime: Enforcement, Policy, and Social Responsibility* (Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, 1998). This 533 page volume contains articles by different authors on a very wide range of topics having to do with environmental crime in the US and elsewhere. One of the five case studies with which the book concludes is “Rocky Flats: A Plea Bargain in Public View,” by Brian Lipsett. This article focuses on issues raised by the out-of-court settlement of the federal case against Rockwell precipitated by the FBI raid on Rocky Flats in 1989. It explains that the Justice Dept. did not indict individuals because their illegal activity was part of a “DOE culture” of lawbreaking. The settlement thus allowed certain DOE and Rockwell officials to act above the law. The article further explores the crucial role of the special grand jury that dared to make public their disagreement with the settlement.

Thomas C. Cochran, William M. Arkin, Robert S. Norris, and Milton M. Hoenig, *Nuclear Weapons Databook, Vol. II: U.S. Nuclear Warhead Production* (Cambridge, MA: Ballinger Publishing Co., 1987). The multi-volume Nuclear Weapons Databook

series, produced as a project of the Natural Resources Defense Council, is the most comprehensive description of all aspects of the nuclear weapons enterprise in the US, the former Soviet Union, France, Britain, and China, at the time the only declared nuclear weapons states. Rocky Flats is covered in the volume mentioned here.

Robert Del Tredici, *At Work in the Fields of the Bomb* (NY: Harper & Row, 1987). This book documents the US nuclear weapons enterprise with photographs and text of interviews with key people. It includes a photograph of Rocky Flats as well as an interview with Kay Gable, widow of Don Gable, a Rocky Flats worker who at age 30 died of brain cancer due, according to a court decision, to on-the-job exposure to plutonium. The interview explains how after his death his brain disappeared as did all records regarding his workplace conditions.

Jack Doyle, *Dow Chemical and the Toxic Century* (Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 2004). This study of Dow Chemical as a major polluter includes a chapter on Rocky Flats.

Allen Ginsberg, *Plutonian Ode and Other Poems*, 1977-1980 (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1982). "Plutonian Ode," the poem that gives this book its name, comes from the time when Ginsberg sat on the tracks leading in to the Rocky Flats Plant in 1978. Among other poems in this small book are several short verses written as part of his experience related to Rocky Flats of civil disobedience, arrest, and trial.

Sam Kashner's *When I Was Cool: My Life at the Jack Kerouac School* (NY: Harper Collins, 2005) narrates his experience as the first student of Allen Ginsberg and others at the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa College in Boulder. In one brief chapter he tells of going to Rocky Flats in 1978 when Ginsberg, Daniel Ellsberg and others were arrested for civil disobedience on the tracks leading in to the plant. Hopefully the bulk of Kashner's narrative is more accurate than his report that someone occupying the tracks at Rocky Flats lost his legs when a train ran over him. Nothing like this ever happened at Rocky Flats. Kashner may be misremembering what happened with Brian Willson, who in 1987 lost his legs blockading a train at a US Navy base in Concord, California, from which arms were being sent to Central America.

Judith A. Layzer, *The Environmental Case: Translating Values into Policy* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2002). CQ Press, a subsidiary of SAGE Publications, specializes in publishing analyses of actions and policies of the federal government. Chapter 4 of this book, "Government Secrets at Rocky Flats," explores the government's role in polluting the environment around Rocky Flats. The author demonstrates that scientific experts rarely can resolve environmental policy controversies; they may in fact make them worse.

Arjun Makhijani, Howard Hu, and Katherine Yih (editors), *Nuclear Wastelands: A Global Guide to Nuclear Weapons Production and Its Health and Environmental Effects* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1995). Produced by a special commission of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, this volume is the most comprehensive assessment to date of the health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons production globally.

H. Peter Metzger, *The Atomic Establishment* (NY: Simon and Schuster, 1972). The author, a former Rocky Mountain News journalist, brings together a great mass of little known detail about the whole nuclear enterprise in the USA in the quarter century following the creation of the Atomic Energy Commission in 1946. In looking at problems like nuclear waste, contamination, and penalties for whistle blowers, Rocky Flats is one of his topics.

LeRoy Moore, "Democracy and Public Health at Rocky Flats: The Examples of Edward Martell and Carl J. Johnson," in Dianne Quigley, Amy Lowman, and Steve Wing (editors), *Tortured Science: Health Studies, Ethics, and Nuclear Weapons in the United States* (Amityville, N.Y.: Baywood Publishing Company, Inc., 2012). More than any other scientists in the Denver area, Edward Martell, a radiochemist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and Carl Johnson, then Director of the Jefferson County Health Department, alerted the public to dangers posed by releases of plutonium from the Rocky Flats plant. This article assesses their work and shows that for their contribution to public awareness, they were made to pay dearly. Available online at <http://www.rockyflatsnuclearguardianship.org/leroy-moore/papers-by-leroy-moore-phd-2/>.

Charles Piller, *The Fail-Safe Society: Community Defiance and the End of American Technological Optimism* (NY: Basic Books 1991). An assessment of opposition by community groups to scientific and technological enterprises that present hazards to the communities where they are located, this book includes a chapter on Rocky Flats.

Max S. Power, *America's Nuclear Wastelands: Politics, Accountability, and Cleanup* (Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press, 2008). From 1988 to 2004 Power was the Senior Policy Advisor to the Nuclear Waste Program in Washington State. This very informative book is a helpful guide to laws and regulations that apply to nuclear waste and cleanup of nuclear sites. The author draws on his extensive experience with these issues at Hanford to look at other DOE sites, including Rocky Flats. He regards the cleanup of Rocky Flats as a success, due to DOE's openness and the decision to turn most of the site into a wildlife refuge. Some involved in oversight of the cleanup would disagree. A positive feature at Rocky Flats, he says, is having dammed holding ponds that prevent potentially contaminated water from being released off the site. But DOE has decided to breach these dams by 2020. Power seems prescient when he questions the viability of long-term stewardship at sites that have been cleaned up because there's no guarantee that funding will continue. Might the breaching of the dams at Rocky Flats be a first step in the elimination of stewardship funding at this site?

Rober Rapoport, *The Great American Bomb Machine* (NY: Ballantine, 1971). This book looks at the whole US nuclear weapons complex as it existed at the time of publication. Chapter 3 deals with Rocky Flats.

Stephen I. Schwartz (editor), *Atomic Audit: The Costs and Consequences of U.S. Nuclear Weapons since 1940* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1998). This thoroughly documented and well-indexed volume is the most comprehensive study of the costs of the US nuclear weapons enterprise yet done.

Theresa Satterfield and Joshua Levin, "From Cold War Complex to Nature Preserve: Diagnosing the Breakdown of a Multi-Stakeholder Decision Process and Its Consequences for Rocky Flats," in Barbara Rose Johnston (editor), *Half-Lives & Half-Truths: Confronting the Radioactive Legacies of the Cold War* (Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research Press, 2007).

Bryan C. Taylor, "Radioactive History: Rhetoric, Memory, and Place in the Post-Cold War Nuclear Museum," in *Places of Public Memory: The Rhetoric of Museums and Memorials*, edited by Greg Dickinson, Carole Blair and Brian L. Ott (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2010), pp. 57-86. In this demanding and dense article Taylor, who teaches at the University of Colorado and was formerly on the board of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum, assesses the difficulty of creating viable nuclear museums, given the "entangled discourses of nuclear history, memory and heritage." Most nuclear museums present "the dominant narrative of Cold War patriots" who celebrate the nuclear weapons enterprise rather than the "less-popular but also persistent" antinuclear narrative. In the post-Cold War era, however, three parallel trends appear: "new stakeholder identities, the ongoing struggle for control of the nuclear-historical narrative, and the growth of a nuclear heritage apparatus." How those responsible for museums handle these themes will determine whether museums serve a more inclusive vision.

Bryan C. Taylor, William J. Kinsella, Stephen P. Depoe, and Maribeth S. Metzler (editors), *Nuclear Legacies: Communication, Controversy, and the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2007). This book includes a brief discussion of the origins of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum, including controversy over whether the federal government should fund the museum and others like it at other sites within the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. The volume's lead editor, Professor Bryan Taylor of the University of Colorado, was formerly chair of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum.

Anne Waldman, "Rocky Flats: Warring God's Charnel Ground," in Waldman and Andrew Schelling (editors), *Disembodied Poetics: Annals of the Jack Kerouac School* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1994). Poet Anne Waldman's essay on Rocky Flats, like most of the contents of this volume, was presented as part of the 1993

summer writing program at Naropa Institute in Boulder. She also makes brief reference to Rocky Flats in a long interview with her conducted by Randy Roark, also included in this book. Director of the Poetics and Writing Program at Naropa, Waldman wrote poetry expressing her opposition to what was done at Rocky Flats when she sat on the tracks there in 1978.

Anne Waldman, *Vow to Poetry: Essays, Interviews, & Manifestos* (Minneapolis, MN: Coffee House Press, 2001). This collection of writings of poet Anne Waldman, director of the summer writing program at Naropa University in Boulder, CO, contains numerous well indexed references to Rocky Flats and plutonium. Waldman's references to Rocky Flats show that over the years since the 1970s she has been both a person of words (in poetry and in testimony at public hearings) and a person of action (most notably her civil disobedience on the tracks at Rocky Flats in 1978). Her "Warring God Charnel Ground: Rocky Flats Chronicles" consists of a series of brief essays from different periods.

Harvey Wasserman and Norman Solomon, with Robert Alvarez and Eleanor Walters, *Killing Our Own: The Disaster of America's Experiment with Atomic Radiation* (N.Y.: Delacorte, 1982). A critique of all aspects of the US nuclear enterprise, this book focuses on public health, environmental contamination, and workplace exposure. The authors devote a full chapter to Rocky Flats.

Paul Wehr, *Conflict Regulation* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1979). This book by Paul Wehr, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Colorado in Boulder, examines nonviolent ways of regulating or containing conflict. One chapter is devoted to nonviolent direct action at Rocky Flats, with primary focus on the 1978-79 occupation of the railroad tracks leading in to the Rocky Flats plant by the group that took the name, Rocky Flats Truth Force.

### Fiction on Rocky Flats

Mario Acevedo, *Nymphs of Rocky Flats: A novel* (NY: Rayo, 2006). This debut comedy novel features an ex-soldier turned into a vampire while serving in Iraq who came to Rocky Flats at the invitation of a friend from DOE to look into an outbreak of nymphomania among female guards.

Ron Olson, *Half Life* (Wellington, CO: Bannack Publishing Co., 1984). This work of fiction is about Rocky Flats, Its author, a Senior Attorney Advisor for the DOE from 1975 to 1983, says his purpose is "solely to provide an item of thoughtful entertainment." He was an attorney for Adams County from 1985 until his death in 1991.

### Films on Rocky Flats

***Dark Circle*** (1983). Feature-length film produced by Judy Irving, Chris Beaver, and Ruth Landy. This documentary, premiered in Denver, focuses primarily on Rocky Flats, secondarily on the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant then under construction in California.

***Secrets of a Bomb Factory*** (1993). Produced for Frontline by Oregon Public Broadcasting; WGBH Educational Foundation: 1993; produced and directed by Michael McLeod [Alexandria, Va.]: PBS Video, c1993). This 55-minute documentary focuses on the grand jury investigation that followed the 1989 FBI raid on Rocky Flats.

(List compiled by LeRoy Moore, April 27, 2007. Last amended December 18, 2011)