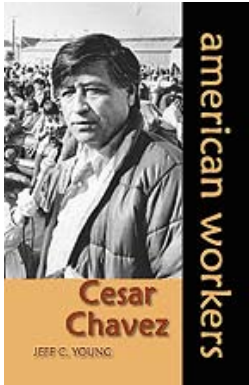


AMERICAN WORKERS

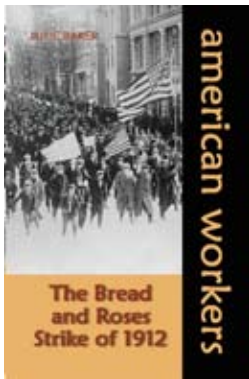


The Horn Book Guide Fall 2007

Young, Jeff C. Cesar Chavez

160 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 978-1-59935-036-3 \$27.95

(3) YA American Workers series. This thorough, well-documented biography recounts Chavez's progression from fieldworkers in California to activist, union organizer, and civil rights advocate. Chavez's untiring efforts, extremely modest salary, refusal to back down, hunger strikes, and growing awareness of political process are emphasized, with the United Farm Workers Union as his crowning achievement. Considerably primary source material is used, and captioned photographs illustrate the text. Timeline, websites. Bib., in. FFB



School Library Journal

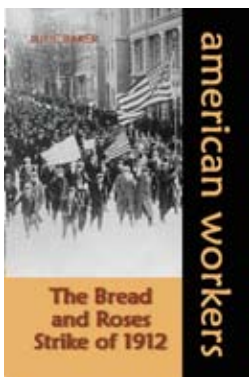
September 2007

BAKER, Julie. The Bread and Roses Strike of 1912. 160p. map. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2007. PLB \$27.95.

ISBN 978-1-59935-044-8. LC 2006101826.

Gr 6 Up—The town of Lawrence, MA, was conceived as a utopian manufacturing town, where workers could have housing while a never-ending stream of cloth flowed from its mills. This dream brought waves of immigrants, and dozens of new factories. Whole families crowded into unsafe and unsanitary tenements, working long hours for slave wages. Forced by poverty and encouraged by town officials, children left school early and went to the mills. Then, in 1912, the Massachusetts legislature decreased the number of hours children could work from 56 to 54 per week. Families already on the edge anxiously requested that total wages remain the same. Owners refused to hear their

pleas. A strike loomed. Once labor organizers from New York arrived, the strike gained focus and purpose. It brought national attention to the miserable conditions of the Lawrence workers and their compatriots in similar circumstances around the United States. This important book gives a clear picture of early industrial poverty. Baker's style is readable, and the well-chosen, well-reproduced photos make the subject all the more real. This title should be on the shelves of any library whose patrons study this time period, the importance of organized labor, or the plight of America's working poor. Katherine Paterson's novel Bread and Roses, Too (Clarion, 2006) is a good companion.—Tracy H. Chrenka, Forest Hills Public Schools, Grand Rapids, MI



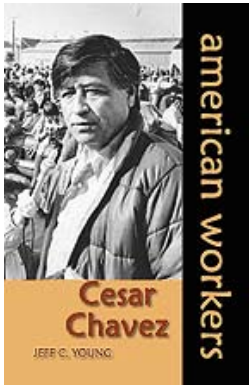
Booklist

May 15, 2007

Baker, Julie. The Bread and Roses Strike of 1912. 160p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$27.95 (978-1-59935-044-8). 331.892. Gr. 7-10

"Hungry and tired, they had no weapons, except for their anger and commitment." With a clear, dramatic narrative and lots of stirring photos, this history of the largest, most violent textile labor strike in American history brings close the struggle of ordinary workers, mostly immigrants, in the mills of Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1912. Nearly half of them were women and children, and the photos show families in crowded attic rooms and in the mills, malnourished and poorly clothed. Their leaders also get lots of attention, including the national union militants, who come to Lawrence to support the struggle. Tension rises as workers and bosses face off, and parents who try to send their children away to safety clash with police. Part of the American Workers

series, this title's spacious design includes a time line, bibliography, and chapter notes. The continuing issues of immigrant rights and of child labor will spark debate. Pair this with Katherine Paterson's beautiful historical novel Bread and Roses, Too for an excellent cross-curricular discussion.—Hazel Rochman



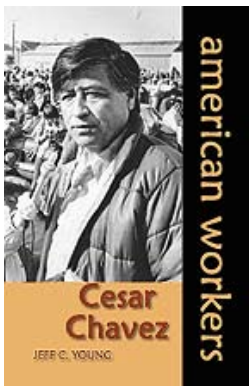
School Library Journal

April 2007

YOUNG, Jeff C. Cesar Chavez. 160p. (American Workers Series). maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2007. PLB \$27.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-036-3. LC 2006025973.

Gr 5-8—Young draws on Chávez's autobiography and other primary sources to document the famous labor organizer's life, describing how his childhood and young-adult experiences with poverty and discrimination influenced his beliefs about social and economic justice. The author includes some information about Chávez's personal life, but the main focus is on how the man overcame a lack of education, the entrenched power of landowners, the indifference of national labor unions, and hostile governments to organize farm workers and become a national spokesman for workers and Hispanics.

Young is very admiring of Chávez, but does include the arguments made by those who opposed his work. Analysis is limited and is integrated into the narrative. Average-quality, captioned black-and-white and color maps and photos of Chávez, labor and political leaders, and reproductions of union posters supplement the text. Burnham Holmes's *Cesar Chavez* (Steck-Vaughn, 1992; o.p.) covers the subject's life in more detail, but in a less-attractive format, and does not include information about his posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom.—Mary Mueller, Rolla Junior High School, MO

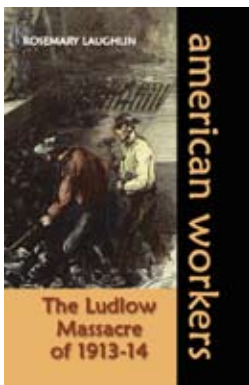


Booklist

March 15, 2007

Young, Jeff C. Cesar Chavez. 2007. 160p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$27.95 (9781599350363). 331.88. Gr. 7-10.

A dramatic blending of history and personal biography, this title in the American Workers series introduces the noted leader who led the migrant workers in their fight to form the National Farm Workers Association. Young explains that Chavez's activism was rooted in his family's struggle as poor farm workers; inspired by Gandhi, he was always an advocate of nonviolence. The design makes the text easy to read, and there are plenty of quotes that clarify Chavez' ideals and tactics, including hunger strikes, protest marches, and the call for nationwide boycotts. There are also lots of news photographs, some in color. With full chapter notes, a time line, and a bibliography, this clear, sympathetic account provides good readers with a look at both the man and the issues. --Hazel Rochman

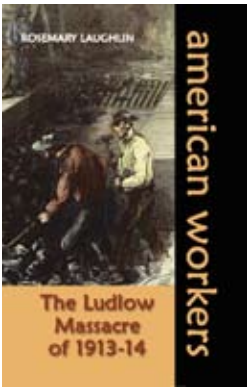


School Library Journal

September 2006

LAUGHLIN, Rosemary. The Ludlow Massacre of 1913-14. 144p. map. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2006. Tr \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-86-9. LC 2005030050. Gr 7-10 -

Laughlin describes one of the lesser-known struggles in U.S. labor history when mining employees in Colorado went out on a strike that lasted 14 months. Their demands primarily included the right to organize and be recognized by management. The struggle saw the deaths of over 200 men, women, and children, many of them occurring when state militia attacked the tent cities where the strikers were living after being put out of the company-owned homes. Background information on mining, Colorado and American history, and labor issues is included in the appropriate context, along with pivotal figures Mother Jones, the national labor activist; the Rockefeller family, who owned the mines; John Lawson, organizer and leader of the United Mine Workers; and President Woodrow Wilson. The writing is dry, and much of the detail, while researched and documented, appears to be filler. Black-and-white and color photographs and illustrations are well chosen, although the sole map fails to do its job. And although the last chapter is entitled "Consequences," the book does not convey any major historical impact of this event. Its use will mostly be limited to supplement material on more pivotal events such as the Pullman Strike, which occurred several decades earlier. —Andrew Medlar, Chicago Public Library, IL

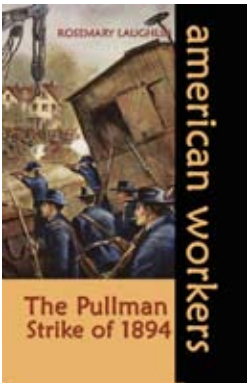


Booklist

April 1, 2006

Laughlin, Rosemary. *The Ludlow Massacre of 1913-1914*. Apr. 2006. 144p. illus. index; Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$26.95; (1-931798-86-9) Gr. 9-12.

In the autumn of 1913, coal miners working for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company walked off the job, demanding recognition of their union. This entry in the American Workers series chronicles the long strike that frequently erupted into armed combat between the Colorado state militia and the miners. Vivid portraits are presented of the protagonists in the struggle, including labor organizers, such as John Lawson and Mother Jones, as well as the Rockefellers, senior and junior, who owned the mine but tried hard not to know what was actually going on. Laughlin presents the facts with a storyteller's flair, supplemented by frequent quotes, period photographs, and engravings that show what life was like for the miners. Appended are a useful time line, source notes for quotations, a thorough index, a few Web sites, and a bibliography of mostly scholarly sources. —Todd Morning



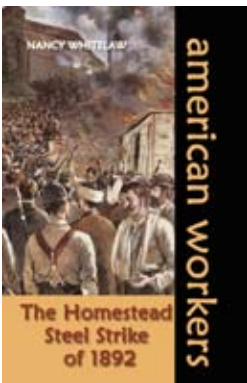
School Library Journal

April 2006

LAUGHLIN, Rosemary. *The Pullman Strike of 1894*. rev. ed. 144p. maps. reprints. bibliog. chron. glossary. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2006. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-89-3. LC 2005028637. Gr 6-9

This revision of Laughlin's 1999 edition tells the story of the strike and explains its long-term effects on the labor movement and the nation. The author examines the arguments made by labor and management and explains how the strike affected all of those involved. Most of the revisions are rewrites of sentences and paragraphs that improve clarity and narrative flow. Sidebars with primary-source excerpts have been added, and Laughlin has rewritten the entire concluding chapter, which examines the legacy of the strike. Many of the earlier photos and illustrations have been replaced with either color reproductions or better-quality photos. The back matter has been updated,

and a list of recommended Web sites has been added. The first edition was an adequate examination of this underreported incident in labor history; this one is a substantial improvement, making it a good choice for report material on industrialization, labor history, or the Gilded Age.—Mary Mueller, Rolla Junior High School, MO



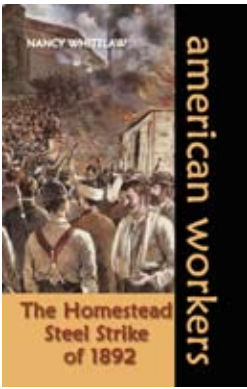
School Library Journal

March 2006

WHITELAW, Nancy. *The Homestead Steel Strike of 1892*. 144p. (American Workers Series). photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2006. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-88-5. LC 2005027113. Gr 5-9

An immigrant from Scotland, Andrew Carnegie was the epitome of the American Dream, a true "rags to riches" story. However, not all immigrants were as lucky or as talented. Many found jobs in the burgeoning steel industry, monopolized by Carnegie and his partner, Henry Clay Frick. Harsh working conditions and management's negative attitude toward labor unions caused friction. The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers negotiated for its members but Carnegie and Frick were determined to destroy the union at their Homestead, PA, factory. While Carnegie vacationed in Scotland, Frick hired Pinkerton guards to break the strike. Bloodshed resulted; the union was broken.

But the story didn't end there. Personal tragedy befell Frick and probably contributed to a break with Carnegie, who sold the company to J. P. Morgan. Frick received far less money than Carnegie in this sale and, further embittered, said, "You can tell Carnegie I'll meet him...in Hell, where we both are going." This is a riveting story told in 11 well-written, lively chapters, with well-placed, good-quality reproductions and drawings throughout the text. —Patricia Ann Owens, Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel, IL



Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee

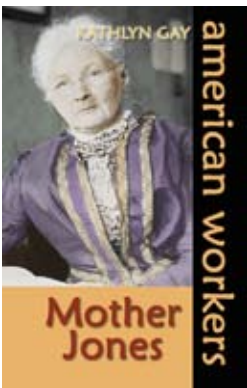
The Homestead Steel Strike of 1892 by Nancy Whitelaw

ISBN 1-931798-88-5. 2006. 144p

Quality: VG-BNS (Outstanding)

The Homestead Steel Strike of 1892 covers the events leading up to the bloody shoot-out between strikers and Pinkerton agents on the Monongahela River bank by the steel plant. Background information is provided on Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick, owners of the steel mill and AAISW, the labor union representing the steel workers. It is estimated that sixteen people were killed and over thirty people were wounded. Although the Pinkerton agents were driven out, the Pennsylvania militia was sent in to guard the plant and later workers were imported to replace the striking union members and this ultimately resulted in the demise of the union.

A rift began between Frick, the president of the company who had refused to negotiate with the union and Carnegie, the principal owner who was away in Scotland at the time and later criticized Frick's handling of the situation. More than twenty years later Carnegie on his deathbed sent his secretary to ask Frick to visit him so they could make amends before his death. Frick replied, "Yes, you can tell Carnegie I'll meet him. Tell him I'll see him in hell where we both are going." Many archival photographs and illustrations that appeared in publications at the time of the strike enhance the text. Two timelines are provided; one for events from 1835 to 1919 and another for the events that occurred in 1892. Chapter sources, a bibliography, an annotated list of web sites and an index are also included. Recommendations: Highly recommended for all middle, high school and public library American history collections.—Margaret Tatro



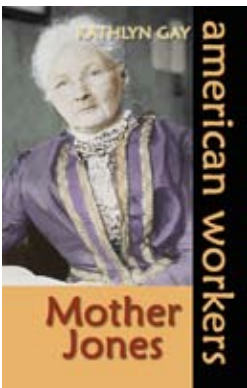
The Horn Book Guide

Fall 2006

Gay, Kathlyn Mother Jones. 144 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 1-59935-016-5 \$26.95 YA

American Workers series.

This intelligent, well-researched biography of Mary "Mother" Jones traces the life of the "grandmother of agitators" from her roots in famine-stricken Ireland to the loss of her husband and four children (from yellow fever) to her tireless fight for workers' rights. Gay emphasizes Jones's energy, independence, and dedication but also acknowledges her inconsistencies. Captioned photos illustrate the chapters. Timeline, websites. Bib., ind. FFB



VOYA Series Nonfiction Reviews

American Workers. Morgan Reynolds, 2006. 144p. PLB. \$26.95. Index. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology.

4Q . 3P . M

Gay, Kathlyn. Mother Jones. 1-59935-0165.

For five decades, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was an unconventional activist for American workers. An Irish immigrant, Mother Jones became embroiled in the struggles of industrial workers after she lost her entire family during a yellow-fever epidemic. Although she became an activist very late in her life, Mother Jones agitated, organized, and supported all types of workers from minors to lady tailors. Traveling the country, she spoke out in plain and often colorful language, encouraging workers to strike and to join unions to overcome the tyranny of such business tycoons as Jay Gould and John D. Rockefeller. She was often found in the midst of brutal, bloody conflicts and rebellions and several times was jailed for her part in these events. Although dimmed by time, Mother Jones's legacy lives on today among those crusaders still fighting for working peoples' rights.

This series addition offers a wonderful glimpse into the life of a unique woman and the tumultuous times in which she lived. The narrative is interesting and evenly paced. Although the tone is biased

toward the workers and against the businessmen, the focus of the book offers some justification for this outlook. Unfamiliar words and concepts are properly defined, and historical photographs give additional depth to the story. The source list and bibliography provide full documentation for this short biography that teachers and librarians will find a wonderful and readable addition to their collection for middle-grade students. The series also includes titles that cover the Homestead Steel Strike of 1892, The Pullman Strike of 1894, and The Ludlow Massacre of 1913-14.—Rachel Wadham.