



THE GOOD TIMES ARE ALL GONE NOW

Life, Death, and Rebirth in an Idaho Mining Town
By Julie Whitesel Weston

“Weston’s insights are unforgettable; her writing is wonderful.”

MARY CLEARMAN BLEW, author of *All but the Waltz and Jackalope Dreams*

“An important portrait of the interior West—the true stuff, raw and gritty, honest to the bone.”

CRAIG LESLEY, author of *Burning Fence and Sky Fisherman*

Julie Whitesel Weston left her hometown of Kellogg, Idaho, but eventually it pulled her back. Only when she returned to this mining community did she begin to see the paradoxes of the place where she grew up. Her book combines oral history, journalistic investigation, and personal reminiscence to take a fond but hard look at life in Kellogg during “the good times.”

Kellogg in the late 1940s and fifties was a typical American small town; yet its bars, gambling dens, and brothels were entrenched holdovers from a rowdier frontier past. The Bunker Hill Mining Company, the largest employer, paid miners good wages for difficult, dangerous work, while the quest for lead, silver, and zinc denuded the mountainsides and laced the soil and water with contaminants.

Weston researched the late-nineteenth-century founding of Kellogg and her family’s five generations in Idaho. She interviewed friends she grew up with, their parents, and her own parents’ friends—miners mostly, but also businesspeople, housewives, and professionals. Much of this memoir of place set during the Cold War and post-McCarthyism is told through their voices. Weston also considers how certain people made a difference in her life and explores her charged relationship with her father, a hardworking doctor revered in the community for his dedication but feared at home for his drinking and rages.

The Good Times Are All Gone Now begins the day the smokestacks came down, and it reaches far back into collective and personal memory to understand a way of life now gone. The company town Weston knew is a different place, where “Uncle Bunker” is a Superfund site, and where the townspeople, as in previous hard times, have endured to reinvent Kellogg—not once, but twice.

Julie Whitesel Weston practiced law for many years in Seattle, Washington. Her short stories and essays about Idaho, mining, skiing, and flyfishing have been published in *Idaho Magazine*, the *Threepenny Review*, *River Styx*, and other journals and in the anthology *Our Working Lives*. She and her husband now divide their year between Seattle and Hailey, Idaho. For more about the author, see her website at www.julieweston.com.

The Good Times are All Gone Now is available from online booksellers, in bookstores, and directly from the University of Oklahoma Press:

1-800-627-7377 or www.oupres.com.

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