

delight to the author. Free entry opened Canada's North, and nowhere more so than in the Yukon.

Environmental and land-use standards eventually came into existence, and it is no longer possible for prospectors to live off the land. Environmentalists will appreciate that *Hills of Silver* is a fascinating case history of pollution and metal dispersion on creeks and rivers.

The author is eloquent in his descriptions of mining methods. The presence of glacial overburden and permafrost had a profound influence in the Yukon plateau. Placer miners initially panned and worked the streams, then blasted shafts through frozen gravel and clay using steam injection points to reach the pay zone at the bedrock surface. Yukon prospectors always had to be miners as well. When it came to vein prospecting in this mountainous region, they used the spring runoff for surface sluicing of the float- and overburden-covered ground. Eventually they traced the best float occurrences down through the overburden to the bedrock veins by sinking timbered shafts. The usual technique was steam-assisted drilling, achieved by using old oil drums, fittings, and pipe and a supply of firewood and water.

Another theme Dr. Aho stresses is the importance of transportation, which evolved to meet the changing needs of the miners. Only when they could be transported did trucks, cat trains, compressors, and jack-leg drills come into use, and likewise geophysics, underground diamond drilling, and overburden rotary percussion drilling. Note that mining in the Keno Hill district was all underground, and the often dusty conditions in the permafrost zone affected the health of miners.

Dr. Aho states his optimistic and visionary view of the potential for more mineral wealth in the hinterland of the Yukon plateau. He was a prospector at heart and made a valuable contribution to the industry in the Keno Hill camp and elsewhere. He founded Dynasty Mines, which discovered the great Anvil base metal deposit. He is truly an icon of Yukon geology and had much potential left when his untimely death occurred in 1977. It is a tribute to the efforts of his family, friends, and colleagues that *Hills of Silver* saw publication in 2006.

#### REFERENCES

- BARTON, B.J. 1993. Canadian law of mining. Calgary, Alberta: Canadian Institute of Resources Law. 522 p.
- GLEESON, G.F., and BOYLE, R.W. 1980. The litho-geochemistry of the Keno Hill District, Yukon Territory. Geological Survey of Canada Paper 77–31.

*Robert L. McPherson*  
Research Associate  
The Arctic Institute of North America  
University of Calgary  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
T2N 1N4  
[rmcphers@telus.net](mailto:rmcphers@telus.net)

A CENTURY OF ADVENTURE IN NORTHERN HEALTH: THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS IN ALASKA, 1879–1978. By ROBERT FORTUINE. Landover, Maryland: Commissioned Officers Foundation, 2006. Distributed by the University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks. ISBN 1-9773149-0-1. 168 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., notes, appendix of selected references, index. Softbound. US\$18.95.

Anyone who is familiar with Arctic medical history is sure to have come across the writings of Robert Fortuine. A prolific writer, he has previously published, among other works, *Chills and Fever: Health and Disease in the Early History of Alaska* (1989) and “*Must We All Die?*”: *Alaska's Enduring Struggle with Tuberculosis* (2005). The present slim volume, privately published by a charitable foundation affiliated with the professional association of U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) health officers, appears to be a spin-off product of the TB book, but nevertheless a valuable contribution to the growing, but still small, literature on Arctic health history. Fortuine writes from intimate personal knowledge, as he has been as much a part of the “action” as those he portrayed in the book. He served 26 years in the PHS, 17 of them with its Indian Health Service in Alaska. He worked both as primary care provider in the Native communities and as a senior administrator, eventually becoming director of the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

Those of us, particularly non-Americans, who worked with or visited our Alaskan medical colleagues would have observed a curious phenomenon: one day a week, they showed up attired in Navy whites, complete with stripes showing rank and serial number! The Naval origin of the United States Public Health Service explains this tradition, and this book delves into the many personalities and events that mark the impact of the PHS on the evolution of public health in Alaska. The PHS is a mammoth organization, and its professional staff populates not only the Indian Health Service, until recently the most important health care agency in Alaska, but also agencies across the national system, in the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration. Thus it plays a prominent role in medical research, public health, and food and drug regulation. While there have been histories of the main agency nationally, the story of the role it played in Alaska has not been told until now. I am not aware of any comparable organization in other countries that matches the PHS Commissioned Corps in its professionalism, scientific contributions, and public health leadership. From the perspective of a health researcher, I am staggered by the total corpus of scientific publications from PHS scientists and practitioners, which clearly exceeds the output of quite a few universities put together.

For someone outside the circle of retired and currently serving PHS officers in Alaska, this *Who's Who* of Alaska health care can be a bit tedious, but Fortuine has successfully conveyed the sense of the tremendous transformation

of health care in Alaska and the health status of its people, both Native and non-Native. Fortuine recounts the stories of the medical pioneers in the PHS against a backdrop of major historical events in Alaska, such as the Gold Rush, the Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands, and the Good Friday earthquake.

This book is a useful resource and guide for anyone wishing to investigate the institutional history of the PHS and its personnel and the broader health history of the United States' only Arctic region.

*T. Kue Young*  
*Professor and TransCanada Pipelines Chair*  
*Department of Public Health Sciences*  
*Faculty of Medicine*  
*University of Toronto*  
*Toronto, Ontario, Canada*  
*M5T 3M7*  
*kue.young@utoronto.ca*

TANANA AND CHANDALAR: THE ALASKA FIELD JOURNALS OF ROBERT A. McKENNAN. Edited by CRAIG MISHLER and WILLIAM E. SIMEONE. Calgary: The Arctic Institute of North America and University of Calgary Press, 2006. ISBN 1-55238-201-X. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2006. ISBN 1-889963-77-1. xxix + 266 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., appendices, references, McKennan bibliography, index. Hardbound. Cdn\$49.95.

Bob McKennan was a significant figure in Alaska anthropology, serving as teacher, mentor, friend, and colleague to many others who did fieldwork there, including this reviewer. Beginning in 1929, and continuing over a period of nearly 50 years, he conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork, primarily among Athapaskans, as well as some important archeological work. One of the best-known anthropologists to conduct research in Alaska, he was also among the earliest to do so.

This book includes a useful biographical sketch of McKennan by Mishler, which provides a good understanding of the sources of the various skills he brought to the field, his educational background, the course of his professional career, and his interactions with colleagues. The introduction by Mishler and Simeone provides additional information on McKennan's training, research, and associates in anthropology, and on the nature of the discipline at the time he did his early fieldwork. The editors' biographical sketch and introduction are very well done, and together they provide an excellent basis for approaching the materials in McKennan's field journals.

Traditionally, ethnographers such as McKennan recorded their observations and the results of interviews with informants as field notes. These notes normally focused on the Native culture, including observations on social organization, political structure, kinship, traditional

stories, religion, and material culture. This information was subsequently compiled into an ethnography, which put it into a structured format as a description of that society. McKennan eventually published formal studies of the two groups discussed here: *The Upper Tanana Indians* (1959) and *The Chandalar Kutchin* (1965). But he also compiled field journals written in a more personal, reflective manner, in the form of letters to his parents and his wife. In these, he gave a first-person account of the events of the day, including interactions with whites, hunting experiences, meal preparation, travels between communities, and some critical observations of Native behavior that would not be appropriate to record in an ethnography. Subsequently transcribed, these journals remained in the Dartmouth College collections after McKennan's death in 1982. They were rediscovered by McKennan's former student, John Cook, and later used by editors Mishler and Simeone as the basis for this volume.

McKennan was born in Helena, Montana, in 1903, the eldest son of a wealthy banker. Exposure to an outdoor environment helped him develop the hunting and fishing skills that are frequently displayed on the pages of his journals—skills that undoubtedly contributed to his apparent ease in establishing rapport with the subsistence-based Alaska Natives he worked among. His undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College were followed by graduate work in anthropology at Harvard University, where he received his doctorate in 1933. McKennan returned to Dartmouth as an instructor in 1930, and except for military service during World War II, spent the next 40 years there.

The majority of this book is devoted to the presentation of McKennan's field journals for his work among the Upper Tanana Natives of Alaska over the winter of 1929–30 and the Chandalar Gwich'in (Kutchin) in the summer of 1933. The journals are accompanied by numerous and often detailed annotations by the editors, which add greatly to our understanding of the natural and social environment in which McKennan worked. Also useful are maps of the region and numerous photographs, many taken by McKennan. The field journals give the reader an excellent overview of anthropological fieldwork as it was conducted in the first half of the 20th century—when there was less sensitivity to the concerns of Native informants or the ownership of ethnographic and archeological materials.

Noteworthy are two appendices that detail correspondence and an interview with informants that took place long after McKennan's fieldwork. They reflect the rapport he was able to establish with his field informants and the degree to which they respected him.

There is a great deal here for the historian, since McKennan's fieldwork in the early 1930s put him in contact not only with Native peoples not far removed from pre-contact subsistence patterns, but also with Americans and Europeans who had come to the Alaska gold fields in the late 19th century and remained there. Most travel in that period was by dog sled and boat, with only the very beginnings of airplane transport. Commercial traders