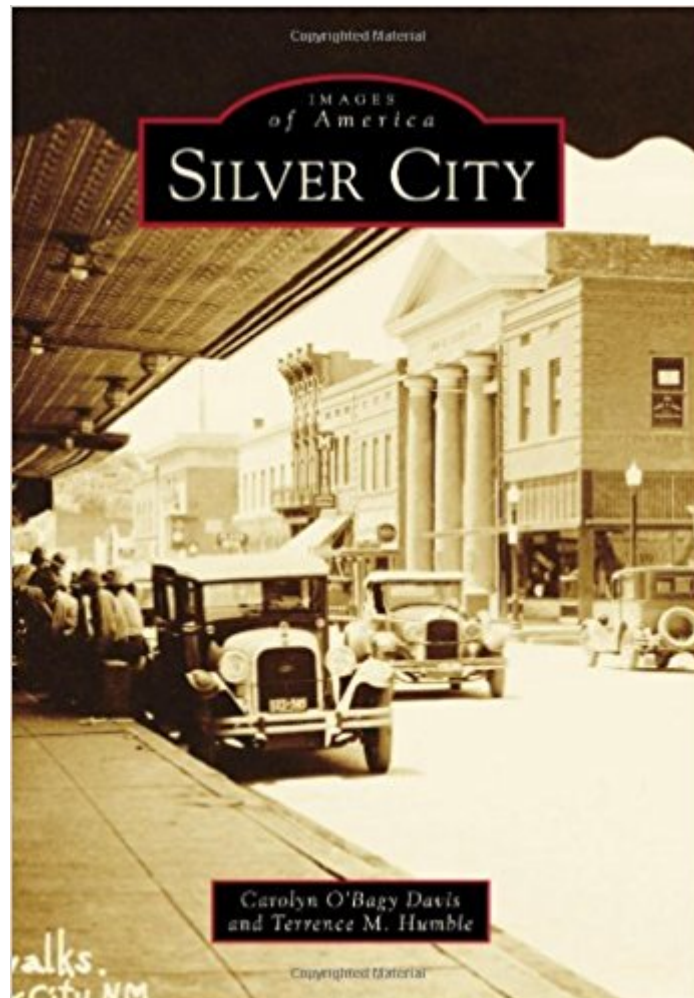




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Silver City (Images Of America)



Synopsis

Silver City is located at the southern boundary of the vast Gila Wilderness in a region of soaring mountains, lush river valleys, and bountiful mineral deposits. Ancient ruins give evidence of prehistoric occupation, followed by a historic parade of Native Americans, Spaniards, Mexicans, miners, outlaws, and settlers, resulting in a community celebrating a rich cultural blend. When silver was discovered in 1870 at La Cienega de San Vicente, prospectors rushed in despite the danger from Apache Indians who traditionally occupied that land. Newcomers flooded into southwestern New Mexico Territory, and Silver City became the county seat the following year. Soon there were businesses, saloons, and homes. Silver City became the supply center for the widespread mining district with a brick plant and lumberyard. By 1883, a narrow-gauge railroad connected the town with the outside world.

Book Information

Series: Images of America

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing; First Edition edition (June 3, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0738599948

ISBN-13: 978-0738599946

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #529,446 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #113 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Cities #643 in Books > Travel > Pictorial

#918 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > History

Customer Reviews

Carolyn O'Bagy Davis, a descendant of Utah pioneers, is the author of numerous books on the history of the American West. Terrence M. Humble was born in the mining town of Santa Rita and has been recording histories and participating in local preservation since 1967.

Learned a lot about Silver City, home town of Billy the kid. Highly informative and interesting with many rare pictures. I have purchased many of these books during my travels. Better than any tourist guide. Highly recommend.

I first stumbled upon Silver City during a driving tour of the Southwest 20 years ago. We camped along a river and in the evening, I found tiny geodes all over the land. We toured the Gila Cliff Dwellings, and I remember sitting by the river, trying to imagine what it must have been for earlier cultures to live there. You can still see corn cobs in pits that were eaten by people many centuries before. 20 years later, I now live in New Mexico and visits to Silver City are always a treat. The town has gone through many changes of late. Five years ago, it was an art Mecca, with artists, galleries, and an air of creativity. Some try to keep that going, but the town is no longer an 'arts destination.' Perhaps that will change. But there is still a unique spirit to the entire Silver City region, much of which is beautifully captured in this book. Unlike a lot of places in New Mexico, the Silver City region is 'Old West.' Billy the Kid had a prominent role in Silver City history, as did a former Supreme Court Justice, primitive people's, and of course, mining. The area is a blend of ranchers, artists, hippies, white/Hispanic, environmentalists, gun-toters, healers, and transplants looking to live out a ranching-life fantasy. Incredibly, they all co-exist and get along. Just take a look at the monthly publication, 'Desert Exposure' to get a taste of this diversity. Silver City has one of the most amazing animal shelters, and of course, funky shops. Sadly, the area is getting hit hard by fires in the nearby forests. This book is an easy read and one that should be in the collection of anyone interested in New Mexico history. The photographs are incredible, and the authors do a great job of enlightening the reader about the history of Silver City. I often think I know a lot about New Mexico history, but when I read books such as this, I'm surprised at how much there is to learn. Great job and I highly recommend the book.

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