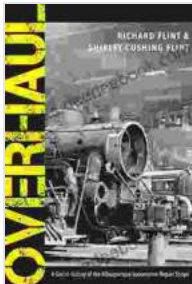


The Enduring Legacy of the Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops: A Social History



Overhaul: A Social History of the Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops by Shirley Cushing Flint

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 19341 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 248 pages
Lending : Enabled



Establishment and Early Years

The Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops were established in 1880 by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (AT&SF) as a major repair and maintenance facility for its locomotives and rolling stock. The shops were located in the Barelás neighborhood of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and quickly became one of the largest employers in the city.

The early years of the shops were marked by rapid growth and expansion. The AT&SF invested heavily in the facility, adding new buildings and equipment to meet the growing demand for locomotive repairs. By the turn of the century, the shops employed over 1,000 workers and had become a vital part of the city's economy.

Labor and Industrial Relations

The Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops were a major center of labor activity in the early 20th century. The shops were unionized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) in 1901, and the union played a key role in shaping the working conditions and wages of the shops' employees.

The shops were also a site of significant industrial conflict. In 1903, the IAM went on strike against the AT&SF in an effort to secure better wages and working conditions. The strike lasted for several months and ultimately resulted in a victory for the union.

The Role of the Shops in the Community

The Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops played a significant role in the social and economic development of the city. The shops provided employment for thousands of workers and their families, and they helped to create a strong middle class in Albuquerque.

The shops also contributed to the city's cultural life. The shops' employees were active in a variety of social and recreational activities, and they helped to establish a number of community organizations and institutions.

Decline and Closure

The Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops began to decline in the mid-20th century as the railroad industry underwent a period of consolidation and downsizing. The AT&SF merged with several other railroads, and the need for locomotive repairs decreased as diesel locomotives replaced steam locomotives.

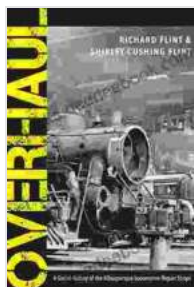
The shops closed in 1980, and the loss of over 1,000 jobs had a significant impact on the Albuquerque economy. The closure of the shops also marked the end of an era in the city's history.

Legacy

The Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops left a lasting legacy on the city. The shops were a major employer and a source of pride for the community. They also played a key role in the development of the city's labor movement and its social and cultural life.

Today, the site of the former shops is home to the Albuquerque Rail Yards, a mixed-use development that includes housing, retail, and office space. The Rail Yards is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike, and it serves as a reminder of the city's rich railroad history.

The Albuquerque Locomotive Repair Shops were a major part of the city's history for over a century. The shops provided employment for thousands of workers, contributed to the city's economy, and played a role in its social and cultural development. The closure of the shops in 1980 marked the end of an era, but the legacy of the shops lives on in the Albuquerque Rail Yards and the memories of the workers who helped to make the city what it is today.



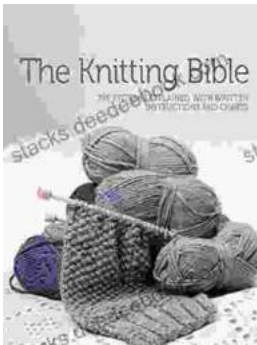
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