

Book Review

Franc Joubin didn't mine just for the gold

By FRANK KAPLAN

Not for Gold Alone: The Memoirs of a Prospector, by Franc R. Joubin and D. McCormack Smyth, encompasses the fascinating life and interesting times of a man who played an important part in the creation of Canada's major role in the dawn of the nuclear age.

It is to be enjoyed for its gentle style and a respect for the English language that makes so much other modern writing seem crude.

Franc Joubin is a mining industry professional - a geologist and registered professional engineer. Yet, it is significant that throughout these memoirs (Deljay Publications, 493 pages, \$29.95), he always refers to his activities as that of a "prospector."

We think of prospectors as being grizzled, lonely individuals who tramp through insect-infested bush to chip away at rocks in the hope of making a "big strike" of mineral

riches. Prospectors are the front-line troops in the industrial battle that has made Canada one of the most important sources in the world of the essential minerals and metals required by modern industry. In the pecking order of the mining industry, prospectors are supposed to bring their rocks to the supposedly more knowledgeable geologists.

Dr. Joubin's life, as gently recalled in this book, is that of a man who prospected both for knowledge of minerals and a philosophy of life by always insisting on going out into the field. He roamed the world, walking over the rocks that hold secret wealth and mixing with the people of many nations.

The results are both mineral wealth, for today and for the future, and insights into the human condition - all recorded in this delightful book.

ELLIOT LAKE BONANZA

Dr. Joubin was born in San Francisco in 1911. His family moved to Canada in 1913. He is best known here for his key role in the discovery and development of the atom age minerals of Elliot Lake, Ont. - the richest known uranium area in the world. Dr. Joubin led the team that provided the expert technical knowledge and skills, for

a colorful financial promoter and art collector, the late Joseph H. Hirshhorn (also of the famous Hirshhorn Gallery in Washington, D.C.).

The stories told in this book of Dr. Joubin's association with Hirshhorn and many of the other unusual personalities associated with Bay Street stirred my memories.

It is to be hoped that Dr. Joubin, by recording his personal journey, has again pioneered in setting an example for others to follow.

—Frank Kaplan is a Toronto-based financial and business writer, with an extensive background in resources industries, especially mining.



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