

Rebecca Priano

My Grandmother and Mother were born and raised in Wardner, Idaho. My Grandfather was a shift boss for 40 years in the Bunker Hill Mine. Mom often told the stories of when the Smelter "ran". After it ran, they would have to wipe the lines to hang clothes so the residue wouldn't stain the clothing. Few folks could grow grass due to the pollutants in the air but if you had a lawn, after the Smelter ran you couldn't walk on your grass because every step killed the grass where you stepped. They had to rinse their grass to get the poison off. Many in the Valley including my Aunt Velma died of respiratory diseases. My Aunt died of tuberculosis in her early 20's. When the smoke was pouring from the Smelter, they kept school children inside at recess. You never painted your house or fence after the Smelter ran as the paint wouldn't stick. Please say no to this Smelter.....I especially think of our precious herd of Caribou and the lichen that they eat that Smelter smoke kills. No Smelter.