



Book Review

Joy and Sorrow; Sorrow and JoySean Daly¹ **Abstract**

This book, my second published book is dedicated to my son, Frank Daly who died an untimely death in November of 2021 and the first two poems are about him. This is a book of poetry written over about 59 years of my life and also it includes popular sayings, many from a very wise Salvadoran grandmother who lived in the mining town of El Mochito in Honduras for many years. The poems are written about family, philosophical topics, and with musings principally about mining and surveying, mineral exploration and Latin America and it was published in January of 2024 and is about 16,000 words long. This book was published by Friesen Press as it was my first book *From the Erzgebirge to Potosi* about the history of geology and mining in the last 500 years and also the close connection between mining, geology and society especially of the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution.

Key words: True Americans; Latin America; mining projects; popular sayings; dedication to my son; “talking” rocks

Affiliation Info: ¹Deciphearth, PH4 4838 Fraser St, Vancouver BC V5V 4H4, Canada

Article Info: Received: 8 June 2024 / Revised: 17 June 2024 / Accepted: 30 June 2024 / Published Online: 30 June 2024.
www.naturalisscientias.com

Authors' Contact Info: Daly, S: dalyshone24@gmail.com

Citation: Daly, Sean. 2024. Joy and Sorrow; Sorrow and Joy. *Naturalis Scientias*, 1 (2): 181-185. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62252/NSS.2024.1013>.

Copyright © 2024 by the author. Published by *Naturalis Scientias*. This is an open access article under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) License. (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>).

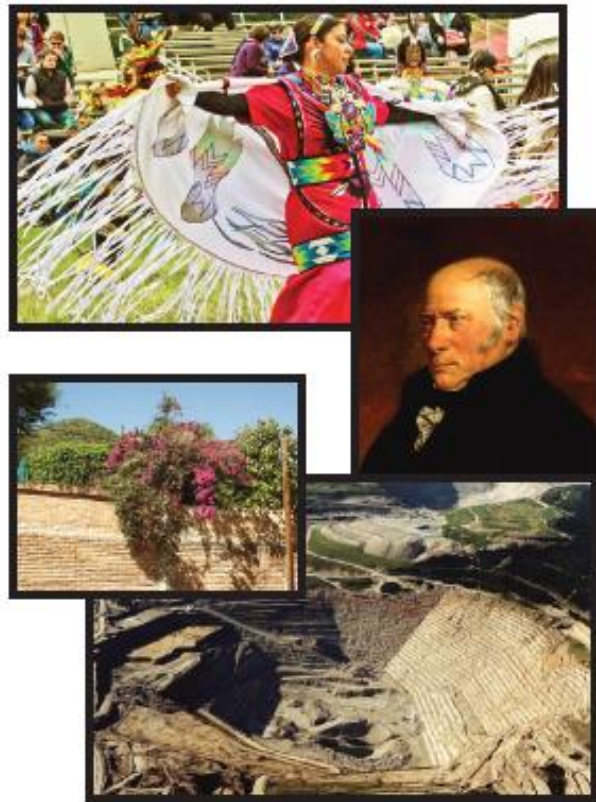
Corresponding Author : Sean Daly is a retired mining geologist with a BSc in geology and a MEng in mining engineering both from UBC and he worked 19 years at the large Highland Valley copper mine in south central British Columbia, Canada; Email: dalyshone24@gmail.com.



I am ‘switching gears’ as they used to say at the open pit mine where I worked for many years and have recently edited a short book of poems I have written over the years, for publishing (published in January of this year) The poems are about mining and surveying, family, Latin America and philosophy and life. These themes are all intertwined as I was a mining geologist but while working in Honduras got married to a beautiful woman both physically and in her heart and also have travelled extensively in both Canada and the US and also Latin America so hope my poems are imbued with what it is like to not just be a Canadian but also a true American in the sense of having lived and worked in various parts of the vast Americas from the Yukon and Alaska all the way to Punta Arenas in the Straits of Magellan.

Joy & Sorrow

SORROW & JOY-MUSINGS ON MINING,
FAMILY, LATIN AMERICA AND SOCIETY



Peter Sean Daly

Figure 1. The front cover of the book *Joy and Sorrow; Sorrow and Joy*

A relevant observation as to why I like writing is that geologists are much more into writing than engineers probably since they have to describe rocks and soils and their complex natural occurrences whereas engineers often deal with man-made materials like steel and plastic whose properties are known much more precisely and unequivocally. My latest and second book was published in January of this year and is called Joy and Sorrow; Sorrow and Joy because it deals in part with the two opposite emotions, both quite poignant, especially our grief for the untimely death of my son.

As true ‘Americans’ we are all conscious of the high mountain spine (the Western Cordillera) that occupies the western edge of North and South America, of having indigenous peoples asserting their rights in all of these countries, and of their artifacts and also ancient ruins of their temples and fortifications of places like Teotihuacan near Mexico City, of meeting mixed or mestizo or metis people in most of these countries where the people are a rich mixture of white ex-English, Scottish, Irish and Spanish and a few other Caucasian groups origin and of course indigenous and also from afro-descendent people. Also, we have common foodstuffs like corn and beans throughout these countries and various forms of tortillas, like the pupusas of El Salvador, the large and small tortillas of respectively Mexico and Central America and the very thick arepas of Venezuela, the rich mineral resources throughout these countries and the common brotherhood of the miners who face similar conditions from Alaska and the Yukon to the US and Mesoamerica and South America in dealing with corporations who usually are only out for the profit motive with a few exceptions.



Figure 2. The large Highland Valley Copper open pit Valley Copper in the foreground and the Lornex pit in the background

This poetry pamphlet also includes some very wise popular sayings heard from my experiences in the Americas and especially from a wise old grandmother from El Salvador on life from the perspective of those engaged in their local mining industry but of wide philosophical import, i.e. with universal truths. My website is: www.seandalyauthor.com, for reading about my books content and ordering While this book.

While this book is partly about family and philosophical issues it also has a major section on mining and geotechnical work vicissitudes i.e. on the valiant struggle for production and scientific experiment experienced every day by the various types of mine workers be they miners, pipe fitters, electricians, geologists and engineers to name some of them. And lastly but not least, is the fact that the rocks ‘talk’ to you and you need to learn to listen to

them or else an accident could occur. Two examples were at the Bonanza Ledge gold small open pit mine near Wells, BC, Canada. The first was when I found a different rock type not the normal pervasive metamorphic phyllite (similar to a slate) and was reticent about really coming to grips with it on the first bench in it. But on the second bench on the same unit I had to listen to it as it was asserting itself by repetition so then I recognized it as actually a quartzite not a phyllite at all. Secondly, every time we mined within or just below the major fault/vein in one wall of the same pit it would slough. So on the third time we had mined about two benches below it and the snow was thawing and the fault was sloughing constantly. At that moment, or well before I should have put two and two together and warned of an imminent collapse. The fault material was just too weak and soil-like to hold up, due to a hydrothermal alteration halo that enveloped the fault and also intense fracturing. So sure enough it sloughed significantly and fortunately it happened right at shift change so no one was hurt. So it is not enough to make observations but conclusions need to be drawn quickly about how it will affect the operation and the personnel especially when it repeats its message saying “pay attention”. There is always warning in any instability. Also within and below this fault it was being double benched so steepening the slope where it couldn’t stand to be steepened. So the lesson is, as a geologist or geotechnical person it is of utmost importance to “listen to the rocks” and be open to what they tell you. And probably the most profound saying of my wife’s grandmother is “hay que saber vivir” or “you have to know how to live” which means at the same time as say working for a large mining corporation, whose main goal is profit so that one has to work hard to help them make this profit, if one is open about one’s environmentalism, say, then one can get chosen to help with mine waste dump reclamation and not give up one’s principles.



Figure 3. The underground very rich El Mochito Mine in Honduras with silver lead, zinc and cadmium

Data availability

The data that support the findings of this study is available from the author upon reasonable request.



Declaration of competing interest

The author declares that he has no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Use of AI tools declaration

The author declares that he has not used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the creation of this article.

