



12-15-1983

Rig Nine

William Rintoul

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Recommended Citation

Rintoul, William (1983) "Rig Nine," *Westview*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol3/iss2/7>

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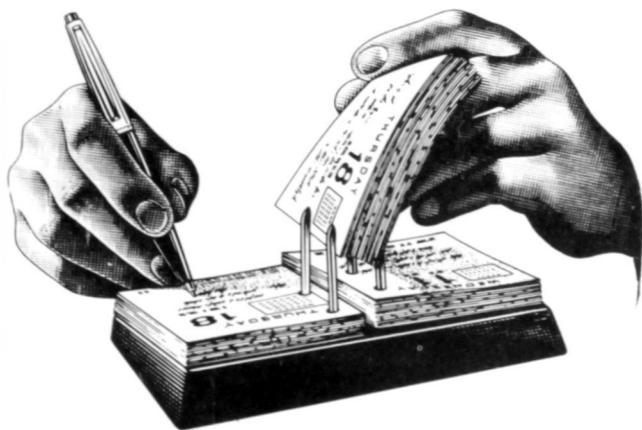
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BOOK REVIEW

RIG NINE

by William RINTOUL

In RIG NINE, William Rintoul presents a collection of character sketches concerning drillers, roughnecks, and roustabouts who struggle to survive the harsh milieu in which they live and work.

As Mr. Rintoul pulls the heart strings of his readers, it matters little whether these men live in the environment of crude wooden structures or towering steel skyscrapers. Regardless of the type of derricks, this world of grime, grease, and grueling hard work basically remains unchanged. Regardless of the era of drilling for oil, these men are far away from their homes and loved ones.

They are company men, hired to do dangerous jobs to the best of their abilities. Homesickness is a common malady, and the monotony of daily work tours progresses from long days into longer months. Only in their dreams and aspirations can these toughened men find solace. Each hopes someday to have a better life for himself and his family.

Each man feels certain that he will not always follow the drilling rigs from offshore Louisiana to the perma-frost regions of Alaska. He vows he will quit the job when the present hole is finished and find work closer to home. Yet the lure of good wages compels him to go with the company to the next location. He cannot break the chain that binds him. In spite of his wishes, he will continue working in oil fields until his health is broken or he retires.

An oilfield worker finds life bearable by receiving self-satisfaction in accomplishing the seemingly impossible, the unexpected glimmerings of beauty when he least expects it, and the good will and humor of his fellow workers.

RIG NINE by William Rintoul is available from Seven Buffaloes Press, Box 249, Big Timber, Montana 59011. 1983. \$5.60 postpaid.

Donita L. Shields